

BSc ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SCIENCES, BSc ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES, AND BSc GEOLOGY

HONORS OR SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2012

This Academic Planning Guide highlights major points only regarding admission and transfer. Students are advised to read the university and RDC calendars, and the Alberta Transfer Guide for other necessary information. Some courses listed may have prerequisites; refer to [Course Descriptions](#). Access this guide online: www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BSC HONORS, SPECIALIZATION AND GENERAL PROGRAMS AT UOFA

The 4-year **Honors programs** are the most desired route for students continuing to Master of Science (MSc) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and a research or academic career. Honors students focus on their major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a Specialization or General program.

The 4-year **Specialization programs** do not concentrate on one subject to the same extent as the Honors programs. Specialization students take most of their courses in the major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a General program. The Specialization degree can provide the background to help you proceed to a higher degree, but its primary function is to provide a comprehensive education at the undergraduate level.

Transfer admission to Honors and Specialization programs requires a minimum course load and GPA in each year of post-secondary study preceding admission. Students wishing to move into these programs must meet the requirements regardless of their original/current program of study.

The 4-year **General program** provides a diverse education in more than one branch of study. Each student must complete a Science major and also a second Science major or complete a minor. The minor may be in Science or in Agricultural, Life & Environmental Science, Arts, or Business. This program allows for subsequent transfer to Specialization and Honors programs and may be used to prepare for admission to professional programs.

ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

Atmospheric Science is the study of atmospheric composition, state and motion, from the smallest scale (i.e. the environment of a single leaf) through medium scales (i.e. a cumulus cloud) to the global scale (i.e. global pollution and warming). Most atmospheric scientists in Canada work for Environment Canada, providing weather forecasts or environmental information. Opportunities also arise with provincial governments and in the private sector.

ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SCIENCES

Environmental Earth Sciences is the study of interactions between humans and the earth's natural environment. It encompasses the influence of human activities on the local and global environment, as well as how our actions are shaped and controlled by the geologic and geomorphic processes occurring around us. Environmental Earth Scientists are typically employed by consulting companies, large resource and industrial firms, and government organizations.

GEOLOGY

Geology is the study of the planet Earth—the materials it is made of, the processes which affect these materials, and the origin and evolution of life. Geologists are employed by companies engaged in exploration for and production of minerals and fuels, by government agencies, companies engaged in engineering and environmental projects, and universities. RDC does not admit to BSc Geology but offers the first year of course work; apply to BSc Environmental Earth Sciences.

ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES:

SUGGESTED PATTERN OF COURSES YEAR 1

FALL TERM	WINTER TERM
MATH 221(3)	CMPT 201 (3)
MATH 202 or MATH 203 (3) ¹	MATH 204 (3)
PHYS 241 (3)	PHYS 247 (3)
GEOG 382 (3) ²	STAT 251 (3)
ENGL 219 (3)	ENGL 220 (3)

NOTES:

1. Students with a grade of 70% or higher in Math 31 are advised to take MATH 203 instead of 202 if it can fit into your schedule.
2. EAS 100 will be taken in year two at UofA; it is not a prerequisite to senior EAS courses in year two of this program. GEOG 382 will fulfill one EAS X9X Arts option in the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SCIENCES or GEOLOGY:

SUGGESTED PATTERN OF COURSES YEAR 1

FALL TERM	WINTER TERM
CHEM 211 (3)	CHEM 212 (3)
MATH 202 or MATH 203 (3) ²	MATH 204 (3)
PHYS 205 or 241 (3) ¹	PHYS 226 or 247 (3) ¹
GEOG 231 (3) ³	GEOG 230 (3) ³
ENGL 219 (3)	ENGL 220 (3)

NOTES:

1. Take PHYS 205/226 or PHYS 241/247. PHYS 241/247 are calculus-based courses.
2. Students with a grade of 70% or higher in Math 31 are advised to take MATH 203 instead of 202.
3. Take *both* GEOG 231 and GEOG 230 at RDC. GEOG 230/231 transfer as EAS 100/105. Students transferring with only one of GEOG 230 and GEOG 231 will be required to take *both* EAS 100 and EAS 105 at UofA.

TRANSFER CHECKLIST

1. **Honors Program:** Students who intend to transfer to these Honors programs require a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of *24 in each preceding Fall/Winter. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission.
2. **Specialization Program:** Students transferring into these Specialization programs require a minimum GPA of 2.3 on a minimum of *18 in each preceding Fall/Winter. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission.
3. **Spring term courses:** a spring term course may be taken in year of transfer if it is not required for admission to the program. The grade will not be calculated in the AGPA nor will it count towards Fall/Winter course load. Ensure the transcript submitted shows registration in the spring course.
4. **A minimum grade of C-** must be achieved in order for course credit to be transferable. However, while courses with grades of D or F will not transfer, they remain on your transcript and will be used in calculation of your GPA. Consult with Faculty of Science and Registrar at UofA if further information is necessary.
5. **Conditional Admission:** If you have higher than average standing in your post-secondary courses, you may be eligible for conditional admission. March 15th is transcript deadline for conditional admission. See UofA website.
6. **Course Attempts:** Students attending UofA are allowed to attempt a course no more than two times and cannot retake a course in which a passing grade was received. However, UofA honours the decisions of other institutions with respect to their students; if a student attempts a course twice at RDC (withdrawal, failing grade or non-transferable grade), UofA will accept the third attempt (if it is a C- or better) when determining transfer credit.

When calculating the AGPA, UofA will use all grades obtained in the most recent terms containing at least *24, including both a failing/non-transferable grade and a transferable grade in the same course. The first grade of C- or better received in a course is the only grade accepted for that course. Therefore, repeating a course for a higher grade is not advisable. If a student truly believes that he/she needs to repeat a course (in which a transferable grade was already earned) to master the material sufficiently to successfully continue in the program, it is recommended that the student audit the course.

- 7. Academic Standing:** If you earn or have earned a GPA below 2.0 in any academic year of post-secondary education you are strongly advised to consult the UofA Calendar and contact the Faculty of Science **now** concerning your future admission to programs in the faculty. See [UofA Calendar](#) 15.15.7(3) and 15.15.7(4) and contact information in *How to Find* more Information.
- 8. Application deadline:** May 1st **Transcript deadline for transfer students:** June 15th
- 9. Regarding course transfer to the University of Alberta & Augustana Faculty:** When checking course transfer to the University of Alberta, please note that courses which have “AU” as the first two letters of the course abbreviation in the Alberta Transfer Guide will transfer only to the UofA Augustana Faculty in Camrose. In order for a course to also transfer to other UofA faculties, there must be another entry indicating transfer as a course not beginning with “AU”. See example below.

CMPT 214 = UofA CMPUT 114 (3) OR AUCSC 1xx (3) CMPT 261 = UofA AUCSC 1xx (3)

CMPT 214 is transferable to all UofA faculties, including Augustana. CMPT 261 is accepted by Augustana Faculty only and will not transfer to other faculties at the UofA.

ALL BACHELOR OF SCIENCE STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO:

1. Consult [Course Descriptions](#) for possible course pre-requisites,
2. Check [Alberta Transfer Guide](#) concerning course credit transfer to UofA, and
3. Consult the [University of Alberta Calendar](#) for admission and program information.

HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

[Science Department](#)

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Office: 1607-E 403-343-4052 warren.elgersma@rdc.ab.ca
http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about_rdc/academic_departments/sciences

[Academic Advising](#)

Academic Advising Centre: Room 1102
advisors@rdc.ab.ca 403-342-3400
http://rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising

[RDC Website](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca>

[RDC Timetable](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca/timetable>

[Alberta Transfer Guide](#)

<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca>

[Faculty of Science, UofA](#)

<http://www.science.ualberta.ca> 1-800-358-8314

[Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences](#)

<http://easweb.eas.ualberta.ca>

[University of Alberta](#)

<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

PLEASE NOTE:

Be aware that you are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at RDC and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer. You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with an academic advisor if you have any questions. The function of academic advisors is to provide students with information and resources that enable them to make informed decisions relevant to their education. These resources include the RDC Calendar, the Academic Planning Guide for your chosen program and destination university, the Alberta Transfer Guide and the calendar and contact information for your destination university. Academic advisors will assist you in interpreting information from these resources or refer you to your destination university if appropriate. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.