

# Getting Started in the Department of Geosciences August 2020

Welcome to Geosciences! This guide for students entering during the 2020-2021 academic year is designed to help you get started in the Department of Geosciences. The information here is both specific to our Department and Warner College of Natural Resources. Questions on any of the information should be directed towards the Dept. of Geosciences office.

## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN CLASSES.**

### ***Residency Filing***

Residency status has a very strong influence on tuition costs. Students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, but are not residents of Colorado, must seek Colorado resident status during their first year to achieve residency by the beginning of their second year. Please see the Graduate overview for details of how to get this important step completed **before classes start**.

### ***Registration***

Please work with your faculty advisor to register for your first semester prior to coming to campus. For those who register after classes begin, a late registration fee will be added to your account. In order to register for classes, you will need your electronic ID (eID). Please go to the [eID set up](#) page, you will need your CSUID to complete this step.

### ***GEOL 601***

Professional Development for Geoscientists (GEOL 601), is a one-credit course specifically designed to make the transition to graduate school at CSU go smoothly and help students to be fully informed. The course is available to all graduate students and is especially strongly recommended for all new M.S. students. It covers a variety of topics, with particular emphases on preparing a successful thesis proposal. The course also includes overviews and discussions of ethical issues in science. **All M.S. and Ph.D. students supported on federal grants are required by federal policy to have CSU-approved training in ethics in science, unless they have received equivalent training at a prior institution. This course is also approved for that purpose.**

### ***Orientations***

Students will be expected to attend orientations provided through the graduate school and Geosciences department prior to starting classes. These will be scheduled during the week prior to the start of fall classes. In addition, GTAs must attend a mandatory orientation presented through The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT). If you have been awarded a GTA, you will be advised of the date and registration information prior to the start of school.

### ***Wireless, Email, and other Computer Access.***

As student, CSU will supply you with a CSU email address and authenticated access to campus wireless. You will use your eID to access these. The Warner College also supports the [WCNR IT](#) group and dedicated computer resources for teaching and research, and there are also specialized resources within the Department. Consult with your advisor to obtain access to relevant in-house computer resources for your graduate program.

## **GETTING STARTED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.**

### ***Desks.***

Full time graduate students in the department will be assigned a desk in one of several graduate student offices. Please check with your advisor or the graduate coordinator for the location of your desk and a key or key code for the office.

### ***Department Web Pages.***

Graduate students are prominently listed on our [Grad Student Directory](#). As soon as you are set up with your College account, go to your individual Department page and personalize and otherwise update it with links, photos, research descriptions, CV and other key information. This is an important component of establishing your professional identity to the world (use the “Update it!” link in the upper left corner).

### ***Warner College Intranet.***

Warner college has [college wide intranet](#) dedicated to services provided by the college to students and staff. This includes the business office, IT support and help requests, building meeting rooms, Account information (for your personal webpage), and college calendars. Please familiarize yourself with this page. You will need your eID and password to access.

### ***Keys.***

If you need a key to your office or faculty lab, please have your advisor email a request to the front office. You will be notified to come to NR 322 when yours are ready for pickup. Please take great care of your Department keys; if you lose your keys, you will be asked to submit a lost-key report to the Facilities Key Desk in order to be issued new keys.

### ***Purchasing, Travel, University Motor Pool Vehicles.***

[The Warner College Business Office](#) handles purchasing, reimbursement, and travel on University accounts, as well as student field-assistant hires and motor pool vehicles charged to either research or course-related accounts. Department staff can provide valuable help in navigating this system.

## **INVOLVEMENT.**

### ***Departmental Seminars.***

The Department generally hosts guest speakers to give seminar talks throughout the academic year. Our seminars are a great way to broaden your understanding of Geosciences, meet distinguished speakers, interact professionally and socially with the faculty and your fellow graduate students, and to hear some excellent general audience science talks, many on cutting-edge research. These seminars will typically occur on Thursdays at 12:30. Please see the [seminar schedule](#) for specific dates and topics. A graduate student lunch is usually arranged before the seminar, the Department will provide lunch and an opportunity to interact with the speaker in a small group setting. If you are interested in scheduling time with a particular speaker, contact the faculty host.

### ***Department Mentoring Program.***

The Department conducts a mentoring program that connects graduate student volunteer mentors with undergraduate students seeking professional guidance and support. The purpose of the mentoring program is to build community between graduate and undergraduate students, provide career and graduate school preparation assistance to undergraduate students, and provide graduate students with opportunities to develop as professionals and mentors, too. Participants for the mentoring program (mentors and mentees) are recruited at the start of each academic year (fall semester). The commitment to mentor is minimal; mentors are expected to interact with their mentees at least once a month. If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact Jill Putman [jill.putman@colostate.edu](mailto:jill.putman@colostate.edu), the Department's Academic Success Coordinator.

### ***Clubs.***

The Geosciences Club is a student-led organization affiliated with the Geosciences Department. The purpose of the club is to educate students interested in the Geosciences about career options in the field and to build community across students, faculty, and professionals. The club also provides networking and social activities to enhance students' curricular experiences. Club meetings are typically held twice a month and the club regularly organizes speakers on relevant Geosciences topics, field trips, and other networking events. Graduate students are encouraged to participate in all club activities. For more information on the club and to keep up on general Department news, join the "Colorado State University Geosciences Club" Facebook page.

### ***Other clubs of interest.***

Several other clubs of interest for graduate students include the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), Society of Economic Geologists (SEG), Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) and Graduate Women in Science Outreach Committee. All of these are associated with national organizations but have an active presence within the department with group meeting, activities, and field trips. Please see our [Student Involvement](#) webpage for more information for these and other professional involvement organizations.