

Paleontology Minor

Overview

The **Minor in Paleontology**, offered by the Department of Earth and Environmental Studies, is a 24-28 credit minor that is opened to all students.

Fossil organisms and the history of life on Earth are popular drivers of scientific interest among students and the general public. As an interdisciplinary science that straddles the boundary between the geosciences and biology, the study of paleontology provides an opportunity to apply diverse perspectives to understanding the past history, present condition, and future directions of Earth's biosphere. Fossils provide the long-term historical record of the evolution of life on Earth, but learning how to decode the information preserved in the fossil record requires a basic understanding of how the record is formed, as well as of the biology of the organisms therein. Study of living organisms is fundamental to understanding ancient organisms, but an understanding of the geological processes and environments that preserve fossils and alter biological signals during the formation of the preserved fossil record is fundamental to reconstructing our understanding of past environments, their biodiversity, and the ways organisms have responded in the past to changing environmental conditions.

Campus Location: Main

Undergraduate Contact Information

Nicholas Davatzes, Chair
Beury Hall, Room 307
215-204-2319
davatzes@temple.edu

Atsuhiko Muto, Vice Chair
Beury Hall, Room 317B
215-204-3699
amuto@temple.edu

Allison Tumarkin-Deratzian, Faculty Advisor
Beury Hall, Room 308
215-204-2321
altd@temple.edu

Ilya Buynevich, Faculty Advisor
Beury Hall, Room 313
215-204-3635
coast@temple.edu

Requirements

Students desiring a minor in Paleontology are required to satisfy the following:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
EES 2001	Physical Geology	4
EES 2021	Sedimentary Environments	4
EES 2022	Paleontology and Stratigraphy	4
BIOL 1111	Introduction to Organismal Biology	4
or BIOL 1911	Honors Introduction to Organismal Biology	
Select three of the following: ¹		8-12
BIOL 2233	Mammalian Anatomy (F)	
BIOL 2234	Dinosaur Paleobiology	
or EES 2234	Dinosaur Paleobiology	
BIOL 2241	Invertebrate Biology (S)	
BIOL 2311	Human Evolution	
BIOL 3101	Evolution (F)	
EES 3031	Field Study in Paleontology	
EES 4696	Vertebrate Paleontology and Taphonomy	

EES 4796

Soils and Paleosols

Total Credit Hours

24-28

¹ Note that some elective courses require additional prerequisites.

Residency Requirements: At least 3 courses required for the minor must be completed at Temple.

Distinct Course Rule: At least seven credits or three courses of the minor must not be credited towards a CST major, additional CST minor, or CST certificate.