

GEOP Specialization Survey Report – December 2018

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The following is a summary of responses from a feedback survey sent to current and former students of the geophysics program in EOAS. Responses are summarized in bullet point form, with exemplary quotes highlighting some of the more common themes. The survey was completed on Qualtrics and was sent to all students currently enrolled in the program, with the suggestion that students pass the email on to any graduates of the geophysics program that they were in touch with. 10 students completed the survey within the two weeks that it was available. Demographic details on the respondents may be found at the end of this report.

1. What do you like most about the geophysics program? Why?

- Small program with a strong feeling of community
- Well connected to professors who were supportive
- Projects and problem solving
- Numerical techniques
- Both conceptual and theoretical
- Promotes understanding rather than memorization
- *“I enjoyed the small classroom feel of the upper level classes. You get a lot of face to face time with the profs, and the emphasis seems to focus more on projects and learning than cramming for finals.”*

2. If you could change one thing about the geophysics program, what would it be? Why?

- Provide opportunity to meet APEGBC requirements
- Consider relevancy of pre-requisites – academic calendar needs looking at by both GEOP Advisor and Science Advising (PHYS201/PHYS203/PHYS301/CHEM205/EOSC350/EOSC352/EOSC353 all mentioned as either confusing equivalencies or not relevant to program)
- More field trips and hands-on experiences
- More industry-relevant examples, better connections with co-op options
- *“The program leans heavily to the global geophysics side of the field and does not prepare students for industry. It needs to be updated to remove old course requirements (Phys 203) and fulfill APEG requirements.”*

3. Has the geophysics program prepared you for your (intended) career? Why or why not? Please provide specific examples.

- “Core skills” (problem solving, mathematics, computing) well developed
- Prepared for research
- Feel less prepared for industry
 - Unaware of geophysical techniques in these settings
 - Don’t feel as competitive on the job market as graduates from other institutions

- Lack of APEGBC fulfillment through the program is an issue – those who meet these requirements have gone out of their way to do so, but worry that many are missing out by these not being integral or easy to fulfill within the confines of the program
- *“In some ways. It prepares us to think mathematically and logically. The geophysics major is good at geophysical theory and prep for an academic career. It was helpful this year to learn how to write reports and present our research in (450 and 453). I intend to work in the industry but I had advice from previous undergraduates and sought some help on my own such as getting all the EGBC pre-reqs or taking on a co-op.”*

4. Do you have any further comments about the geophysics program?

- Glowing reviews of the program overall and the transferrable skills it develops
- Some concerns about applicability to industry
- Concerns about access to advising and problems scheduling with alternate year courses (not enough notice and the flexibility of the program can be confusing at times)
- Suggestions of making EOSC331 and EOSC350 required courses for those wanting to work in industry

Demographics of Respondents (n=10)

Characteristics	Categories	% of respondents
Type of program	Majors	80%
	Honours	20%
Year of (expected) completion	2016 or prior	20%
	2017 or 2018	20%
	2019 or 2020	40%
	2021	20%
Advanced degrees	Yes, Masters	10%
	None	90%
(Intended) Industry employed in	Geological Survey	10%
	Higher Education	20%
	Mining/Exploration	30%
	Oil & Gas	20%
	Other	10%
	Did not answer	10%
Gender identity	Man	60%
	Woman	40%
Ethnicity	Asian	20%
	Canadian	20%
	European	10%
	Latinx	10%
	Did not answer	40%