



## EARTH & SPACE SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

College of the Environment

### Earth and Space Sciences (ESS) Department Field Camp Admission Policy

Field camp is the “capstone” course for many ESS undergraduates and is offered on an annual basis in Summer quarter only. Most students take field camp in the summer **after** their senior year. Each section of the course (ESS 400 and ESS 401) can only accommodate up to 30 students maximum. This policy describes the criteria that will be used by the instructors to make field camp admission decisions when demand for one or both courses exceeds the course capacity.

The instructors will give priority to students who:

- **Complete the field camp survey by the advertised deadline.**
- **Need the course to graduate.** This includes students who have declared a degree option for which field camp is a **specific degree requirement** - either the ESS Geology BS, ESS Environmental/Geoscience BS, or ESS Biology BS.
- **Have completed all of the required prerequisites.** Per the Course Catalog, students must earn credit for the prerequisite courses but are otherwise not required to earn minimum grades in those courses. If space is available, students who are missing one or more prerequisite courses will be required to demonstrate competency in key concepts from the prerequisite courses before the instructors will consider admitting them to the course.
- **Have filed to graduate within the next 2 quarters.** This includes students who are graduating in the same quarter that field camp is offered (Summer) or the quarter immediately following field camp (Autumn).

Students who do not meet the criteria outlined above will be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis if space allows or may be waitlisted pending changes in course enrollment. Students who have met the first 3 criteria above will typically be given highest waitlist priority, with students who are graduating soonest admitted first.

Students who fill out the field camp survey by the advertised deadline are given the opportunity to indicate which section of field camp would be their first choice. However, depending on demand, students may not always be admitted to their first choice course.

In addition to the criteria outlined above, the instructors will attempt to prioritize the needs of students who have **unavoidable** conflicts which would only permit them to attend one section of field camp or would require them to attend field camp earlier in the degree. If students wish to have their conflicts considered by the instructors, they **must** describe these conflicts when filling out the field camp survey and provide the dates of any conflicts; the instructors are often unable to make changes to accommodate students with conflicts after admissions decisions have already been announced. Examples of unavoidable conflicts include ROTC training exercises, weddings, funerals, memorials, caregiving duties, visa expirations, or job/internship opportunities for which a student has already received an offer. Intending to apply for jobs/internships without having an offer in hand is not considered an unavoidable conflict. Students with a letter from Disability Resources for Students (DRS)



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documenting their need to enroll in their first choice field course will also be prioritized. Other conflicts and life circumstances may be considered by the instructors on a case-by-case basis.

In the event of unequal demand for ESS 400 and ESS 401, assuming students meet all of the criteria described above, the following guidelines will be used in determining how to prioritize students for placement in ESS 400 and ESS 401:

- ESS Geology BS students will be prioritized for spaces in ESS 400.
- ESS Environmental/Geoscience BS and ESS Biology BS students will be prioritized for ESS 401.
- The instructors will prioritize the needs of students who have described unavoidable conflicts and extenuating circumstances in their field camp survey responses.

Due to high demand from ESS undergraduates, the ESS Department does not admit graduate students or non-UW students to the ESS field camp course. The only exception to this policy is for incoming MESSAGE students; on rare occasions, the field camp instructors may admit incoming MESSAGE students to the ESS field camp, if space allows. If the course is full, incoming MESSAGE students will be required to present the field camp instructors with a written appeal from their faculty adviser to be considered for admission.

University policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, sex, pregnancy, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, disability, or veteran status; none of these criteria may be used to deny a student admission to field camp or to their first choice field course.