



Top 5 Non-Geology Classes That Will Help Your Career



Every student is expected to round out their education by taking courses outside of their chosen major. What may surprise you, however, is that a number of non-geology courses can give you skills that are beneficial to your future profession in the geology industry. Here are the top five non-geology courses that AEG professional members have found most influenced their careers:

We hope this advice will show you the benefits of staying connected with professionals and drive you be involved and attend events with AEG!



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Connecting Professionals, Practice and the Public

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1. Surveying:



Many geologists are not exposed to this useful course. It helps with mapping, understanding different coordinate systems, equipment familiarity, and GIS data collection to name a few. Surveying skills help with communicating with clients, subcontractors and property owners for the sites you'll be working.



2. Technical Writing



Geologists frequently create reports where concise, understandable writing is critical. Something many employers look for is a track-record of writing through coursework, thesis, or other work history. Technical, scientific writing can be vastly different than creative literature writing taught in basic college English. The ability to write technical papers well is a highly desirable skill.



3. GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

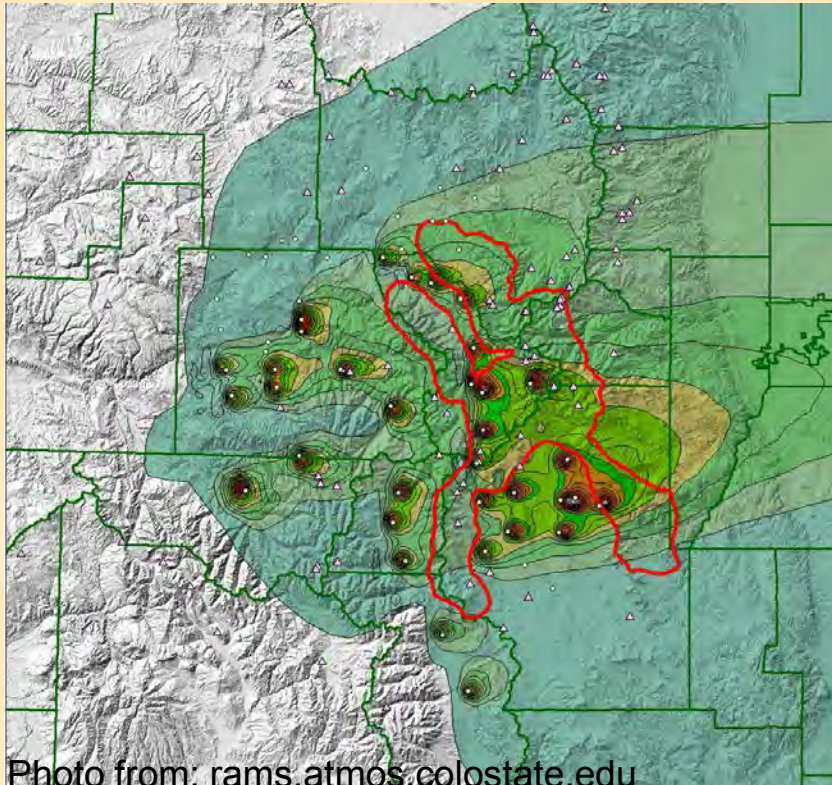


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More and more consulting companies are turning to GIS for their projects involving mapping, planning, and engineering and environmental work. It is becoming a more integral part of consulting, and a basic understanding of GIS and related software will be vital for an entry-level position.



4. Public Speaking



Photo from: aegsf.org

Being comfortable presenting your work in front of an audience can help you be a confident and polished professional. A public speaking class is great way to acquire skills that will help with giving presentations and being able to communicate clearly and effectively at conferences, in front of office-mates, clients and subcontractors, or at interviews.



5. Business and Economics



Photo from: aiu.edu

A general understanding of these subjects can help any individual make informed decisions about their career, but a geologist considering a career involving commodities (think oil and mining) will benefit greatly from a better understanding of the market and how business decisions are made. No matter where you work, as you advance in your career you'll be expected to make decisions that involve budgets, which may affect the company. Even entry level geologists will have an advantage in their career if they can display a comprehensive understanding of the financial side of the business.