STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

THE FIELD QUARTER, FALL 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

The twenty-sixth offering of the Field Quarter will be in Fall, 2025. The Field Quarter (FQ) is designed to allow courses to be taught largely in the field without conflict with other classes. The university covers all travel expenses (except roundtrip airfare to Nicaragua), meals, and scientific equipment. Students will need to provide for their own discretionary expenses (snacks, personal items, etc.).

The academic quarter will consist of four classes taught in block format. Much of the quarter will be spent in the field, however, there will be short intervals spent in Denver throughout the fall (keep this in mind for housing during those periods). Course work will include substantial amounts of reading and report writing, field data collection, problem solving, and some laboratory or other analytic work. Due to the extended periods spent away from campus, students will not be able to register for classes beyond those in the Field Quarter. Students must have proof of health insurance coverage (either through the University of through a private provider) and a **valid passport**. Additional information may be obtained from Professors Sullivan, Kerwin, or Taylor.

Each completed application must include **one letter of reference** from a faculty member. This letter must include an evaluation of the student’s ability to participate in field-based classes. Faculty letters may be sent separately. In addition, applicants may be interviewed by FQ faculty.

The Fall 2025 Field Quarter classes (dates are approximate, and may vary by a couple of days):

* **GEOG 3550: Paleoenvironmental Field Methods** (3 credits), taught by Prof. Don Sullivan (Sept 1 - Sept 9), this class will focus on obtaining samples from various environments for paleo-environmental analysis. The fieldwork will take place principally on Grand Mesa, in western Colorado. Laboratory analysis may be done on campus after returning from Grand Mesa. Note that this class will begin before the start of the regular Fall Quarter.
* **GEOL 2400: Geology and Ecology of the Southwest** (5 credits), taught by Prof. Mike Kerwin (Sept 11 - Oct 1). This course will be taught at the DU High Altitude Lab at Echo Lake, in the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico, and at the Southwestern Research Station in Arizona. Students will be introduced to basic field methods in geology, hydrology, and ecology, and apply these skills when collecting and analyzing data from ecosystems throughout the SW USA.
* **GEOG3930: Nicaragua: Development Dilemmas** (4 credits), taught by Prof. Matthew Taylor (Oct 7-17). This class will examine the economic boom along the Pacific Coast of Nicaragua from a political ecology perspective. This class involves extensive walking in a very hot and humid climate. Heavy rains and mud should be expected, as well as significant power outages. Students will also study and practice ethnographic field methods. This class will be taught entirely in Nicaragua. Please note that students must purchase round trip airfare from Denver to Nicaragua for this class. (This class is optional.)
* **ENVI 2660: Mountain Islands and Desert Seas: the Natural History of the Southwest** (5 credits), taught by Prof. Don Sullivan (Oct 24 - Nov 22). This class visits the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and California in a field trip that covers more than 4500 miles of driving. Students will learn Sonoran and Mojave Desert botany, desert climatology, and geologic history. In the last 10 days of the class we will investigate coastal processes. Students will apply class lessons to sustainability and conservation research projects.

Enrollment in the Field Quarter is limited, and requires completion of 1) the application (next page), 2) a faculty letter of recommendation, and 3) consent of the instructors. Please complete this application as a Microsoft Word document, and return it by email to Prof Don Sullivan ([dsulliva@du.edu](mailto:dsulliva@du.edu)) **by 4:30 pm, Thursday, May 1, 2024**. Faculty letters should also be emailed to Prof Sullivan by May 1.

**FIELD QUARTER 2025 APPLICATION FORM**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Local Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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email address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year in school\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GPA\_\_\_\_

1. What previous courses in Geography, Geology, Chemistry, Biology, Anthropology, or Environmental Science have you taken?
2. Have you had prior camping and/or travel course experience?
3. Have you had prior international travel experience?
4. Are you now, or have you ever been, on academic or judicial probation? If so, when, and for what reason?

5. Are you a member of any university campus groups or organizations?

6. Have you taken the University of Denver defensive driving course?

The application process for participation in the Field Quarter is competitive—we often have more applicants than we have spaces. Decisions regarding accepting applicants are based on a variety of criteria, including **grade point average, academic year, suitability for the FQ program, prospects for success and excellence in the program, and a number of other factors**. Please note that senior standing ***is not*** a guarantee that you will be selected to participate in the Field Quarter. Your answers to the following questions will serve as a *writing sample*, which will be part of the selection criteria. With that in mind, please take time to write a well thought out two to three paragraph response to each question.

7. Why should the Field Quarter be part of your undergraduate education at the University of Denver? How will the Field Quarter experience fit in with your long-term academic and/or career plans?

8. Describe a past life experience where hands-on or experiential learning helped you understand a concept or phenomenon.

9. Describe a time when you found yourself in a stressful, awkward, or confrontational social situation. How did you deal with the situation, and what did you learn from the experience?

**Be sure to have a letter of reference from a faculty member sent to** [**dsulliva@du.edu**](mailto:dsulliva@du.edu) **by Thursday, May 1.**