

In response to common feedback and questions:

Why are we focusing on field safety in geology, even though it is a demonstrated barrier for BIPOC and other marginalized individuals?

Fieldwork is part of the undergraduate curriculum for the BS and BA degrees in geology. The undergraduate curriculum is designed in part to qualify our graduates for professional licensure, which requires fieldwork. It is our responsibility as a department to ensure that all students feel welcome and safe when participating in the field experiences that are required to earn a degree and to qualify for the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology Examination.

Who needs field safety training? Who is responsible for field safety in ‘the field’?

Field safety is the collective responsibility of all participants. Field leaders are responsible for making a field safety plan and informing participants of the plan. We use the term ‘Field Leader’ in the proposal to address situations in which students or non-faculty may lead field trips (such as the graduate student fall field trip and trips sponsored by the Geology Club at UC Davis). The ARAC Field Safety proposal suggests that all TAs and field leaders should have some basic first aid training and bystander intervention training.

How are the recommended required trainings expected to be paid for? What about unpaid time away from work?

The department supports wilderness first aid (WFA) training for department personnel involved in field teaching and research, including a 2-day weekend training in November near Veterans Day. The ‘safe driver’ training is free and takes about 20 minutes. The department will support bystander intervention training and sponsor regular bystander workshops. The second one will be on January 24, 2021.

The time spent in these safety activities can be negotiated as paid time as part of being a TA or a GSR when fieldwork is required for the position. If your supervisor does not support time spent on safety training, please contact the department chair, a graduate advisor, or the chair of ARAC

What else was changed in the field safety proposal based on community input?

1. We added a recommendation to discuss shared lodging/tenting arrangements with participants and allow them to approve/reject these arrangements before traveling.
2. We added a recommendation to communicate the availability of bathroom facilities to participants.
3. We added links for campus-level resources.
4. Minor corrections and clarifications throughout the document.