



AUGITE AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY
ADVANCING UNDERGRADUATE GEOSCIENCE THROUGH
INTEGRATED TRAINING EXPERIENCES



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Welcome to the AUGITE program at Miami University for 2020 - glad to have you on board!

Many students enrolling in professional development opportunities and/or undertaking research wonder what is expected of them, and what they can expect from their peers and mentors. Experiences can, and will, differ for each student because expectations vary from one mentor/advisor to the next. In addition, each enrolled student likely has their own personal and professional reasons for taking part in this program. The goal of this document is to outline what you can expect from AUGITE, what opportunities you will be presented with, what is expected of students in this program, and what you can expect from your peers and mentors.

[Please read this document carefully and do not hesitate to follow up with any questions you may have.](#)

As stated, your reasons for enrolling in this program will vary and thus will affect how you tailor your experience here in order to best meet your overall goals. The main role for us as faculty is to act as mentors and provide direction and advice throughout this program. For those of you who wish to conduct an independent research project as part of this program (whether it is directly associated with our field site in Nevada or not), we can provide assistance with project design, a literature search for background information, lab procedures, data analysis, project reporting and presentation, and writing. One of the goals for the research experience here is to train you on how to conduct and communicate science, along with how to carry out your specific project (again, if you choose to undertake one). In addition, it is our responsibility as mentors to communicate to you opportunities for professional development: internships, workshops, conferences for example.

The time commitment to extra-curricular opportunities and activities tends to be one of the most important issues for students and mentors. Your presence in the AUGITE program is dependent upon your progress through the program, within the context of what has been agreed upon with the National Science Foundation (NSF, the funding agency) and Miami University guidelines. Therefore, it is important that you learn how to budget your time so that you get the most out of this program (this will be different for everyone!). Time-management is a skill that will last a lifetime. We will spend time during our first meeting discussing your priorities and how best we can structure the semester to support those.

Communication

Any constructive, collaborative relationship requires communication to remain strong. Our professional relationships with you are no different. If you're having difficulties, if you need assistance or are unsure of something, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We won't know if something's wrong with the way we're running things unless you let us know. Let's work to make this a great time for all of us by keeping the communication open!

This also extends to the research you undertake (see more on pg. 2), particularly if you are utilizing the same research space. We ask that you respect each other's time by staying in communication with each other as well.

Weekly meetings

We will meet as a group once a week on the Oxford campus (at a time and date to be determined).

Establishing a regular meeting time is an effective way for all of us to keep informed of what everyone is doing. During these meetings we ask that you respect each other's time and allow each other the time to speak, you will get your turn!

The following events will be scheduled once a weekly meeting time has been agreed upon:

AUGITE-specific events: (to be scheduled throughout the semester)

- A student-student and student-faculty mentorship program;
- Professional certification (SafeLandUSA Training);
- A career-focused seminar series;
- Career-readiness workshops;
- Professional presentations of research (virtual, local, regional, and national);
- Field-based, undergraduate research opportunities (field location at Round Mountain, Tonopah, Nevada). [This is scheduled for the week of Spring Break. Based on current pricing and accommodation availability we will depart on Sunday March 22nd and return Saturday March 28th \(although this may be a redeye flight\). **Please let us know, no later than Friday February 14th**, if you plan to attend this field trip. All costs associated with travel and accommodation are covered. We will book all of your flights and accommodations, and arrange rental vehicles. **We will travel out to Nevada together, as one group.**](#)

Research Project (*not mandatory*)

As part of this program you are being offered the opportunity to conduct your own scientific research associated with a field site in Nevada. Opportunities within the fields of igneous petrology, geochemistry, geochronology, environmental pollution, mineralogy, and mine waste contamination exist and we will present further details on these at our first meeting. The research we conduct in this group is primarily funded by government dollars and is therefore ultimately public intellectual property. However, until the work is published, consider the research you generate to be the intellectual property of this research group and Miami University. Consult us before sharing data, models, ideas, and results with others. It is perfectly acceptable to engage in intellectual discussions about your research with faculty, other researchers, and students; you will likely find this a very productive activity.

As part of this program, there are funds available to you to support your attendance at regional and national meetings, and to support presentation of your research. [Please note that if you are conducting research with another faculty member in the department, you will still be eligible for funding through the AUGITE program to support your attendance at a meeting/workshop/conference.](#)

Professionalism:

- ❖ Treat others and their scientific ideas with respect and tolerance. It is ok to have a professional disagreement, but do not let the disagreement get personal and always recognize the other person's right to have their own opinion.
- ❖ Take responsibility for your own actions and duties.
- ❖ Be willing to ask questions when you don't know the answer.
- ❖ Help other students when they ask for it.

- ❖ Criticism can be a sensitive issue. We will try to provide you with constructive criticism and we expect you to do the same for others.

We are excited for a productive semester ahead and expect that you will get a lot out of this opportunity. Remember that this program has been designed around you! It is supposed to be fun, intellectually challenging, and provide you with opportunities for professional growth.