

THE UNICAMP'S NEW EARTH SCIENCES COURSE AND THE GEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE

FIGUEIREDO, B. R. Institute of Geosciences, State University of Campinas, Unicamp, Campinas, Brazil

The new undergraduate course on Earth Sciences in Brazil started at Unicamp in 1998. This course is devoted to graduate geologists, geographers and teachers in Geography. During the last 15 years the Institute had been dedicated to research and graduate courses in several scientific areas. The course's program benefited at large extent of the intense discussions on geological education that took place all over the world in the last decades. Planned for a minimum of 3900 hours, the new curriculum dedicates 11% to social sciences (economics, administration, legislation, sociology of science etc.) and English; 24% to mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology, 35% to basic geology and other disciplines like soil sciences and climatology and, 30% to applied geology. Currently, an increasing flexibility of high-school curricula (less compulsory class-room activities) and shorter undergraduate courses (minimum of 3000 h instead of the current 3600 hours) are being stimulated by the new education policy in Brazil. This new course affiliates to the most modern experiences in geological education by adopting the Earth System Science as the unifying approach of the disciplines. But differs from the traditional courses in the sense that human and social sciences have a greater weight in the curriculum. That may lead to formation of professionals more capable to work in multidisciplinary groups which will be increasingly required in the near future.