Rock Mechanics Testing and Core Analysis Training Course

OGI-1440 · 5 days · 15 CPD hours · English

Overview

The Rock Mechanics Testing and Core Analysis Training Course by Institute For Oil & Gas Training develops the technical capabilities required to evaluate rock strength, elastic properties, deformation behaviour and mechanical performance through laboratory testing and core analysis. Designed for professionals working in the oil and gas sector, this course provides practical knowledge of uniaxial compression testing, triaxial rock testing, rock strength measurement and mechanical core testing to support reliable reservoir characterisation, well planning and geomechanical assessments.

Rock mechanics plays a critical role in understanding how subsurface formations respond to drilling operations, production activities, changes in reservoir pressure and other operational stresses. Accurate knowledge of rock properties enables organisations to assess formation stability, evaluate reservoir integrity and make informed engineering decisions throughout the exploration, development and production lifecycle. Laboratory testing of representative core samples provides essential information about the mechanical behaviour of reservoir rocks and their response to different loading conditions.

Oil and gas organisations depend on reliable rock mechanics data to address operational challenges associated with wellbore instability, formation failure, borehole collapse, sanding, reservoir compaction and changes in subsurface stress. Inaccurate rock property measurements affect geomechanical models, drilling programmes, completion strategies and production forecasts. Mechanical core testing provides the experimental foundation for understanding these challenges and establishing more reliable engineering parameters.

The Rock Mechanics Testing and Core Analysis Training Course addresses the technical skills gap between conventional core analysis and the mechanical evaluation of reservoir formations. Participants examine the principles and applications of laboratory testing techniques, including uniaxial compression testing, triaxial rock testing and the determination of elastic properties. The programme also explores the relationship between rock deformation, compressive strength, confining pressure and failure mechanisms.

A central component of the course focuses on the preparation, handling and testing of representative rock core specimens. Participants develop an understanding of specimen geometry, sample quality, testing conditions, loading procedures and data interpretation. These activities establish the technical foundation for evaluating rock strength measurement results and identifying the mechanical characteristics that influence subsurface engineering decisions.

The programme also examines how laboratory results contribute to practical geomechanical applications. Participants explore the use of mechanical properties in wellbore stability analysis, drilling risk assessment, reservoir compaction studies, hydraulic fracturing design and production optimisation. Particular attention is given to understanding the limitations of laboratory measurements and the importance of representative samples, consistent testing procedures and reliable data quality.

Institute For Oil & Gas Training delivers this programme with an industry-focused approach that connects laboratory testing principles with operational requirements. The course strengthens the ability of technical professionals to evaluate rock behaviour, interpret mechanical testing results and communicate meaningful findings to multidisciplinary engineering teams.

By completing the Rock Mechanics Testing and Core Analysis Training Course, participants gain a structured understanding of the methods used to measure rock strength, determine elastic properties and assess deformation behaviour. These capabilities support more informed reservoir characterisation, improved geomechanical assessments and better technical decisions across upstream oil and gas operations.

Objectives

- Explain the fundamental principles of rock mechanics and their applications in oil and gas exploration, drilling and production.
- Understand the relationship between rock composition, texture, porosity and mechanical behaviour.
- Identify suitable core specimens for mechanical testing and evaluate their representativeness and physical condition.
- Apply the fundamental principles of rock core preparation, dimensional measurement and specimen quality assessment.
- Explain the procedures and applications of uniaxial compression testing for determining rock strength.
- Understand triaxial rock testing and the influence of confining pressure on rock failure behaviour.
- Evaluate rock strength measurement results and understand their significance for subsurface engineering.
- Interpret stress-strain relationships and determine fundamental elastic properties of rock specimens.
- Understand Young's modulus, Poisson's ratio and their relevance to rock deformation.
- Recognise brittle and ductile deformation characteristics under different loading conditions.
- Examine the influence of pressure, temperature and specimen characteristics on mechanical testing results.
- Identify common sources of uncertainty and error in mechanical core testing.
- Interpret laboratory results for geomechanical modelling and reservoir characterisation.

- Apply rock mechanics data to wellbore stability, drilling risk assessment and reservoir integrity evaluations.
- Understand the relationship between laboratory measurements and field-scale geomechanical behaviour.
- Communicate rock mechanics findings effectively to multidisciplinary engineering teams.

Training methodology

Institute For Oil & Gas Training uses an applied, industry-focused training methodology that combines technical presentations, laboratory testing principles, engineering case studies, practical interpretation exercises and group discussions. The delivery approach connects the scientific principles of rock mechanics with the operational requirements of exploration, drilling, reservoir engineering and production activities.

The methodology emphasises the practical application of mechanical testing results rather than theoretical knowledge alone. Participants examine how core specimens are selected, prepared and evaluated, and how laboratory measurements contribute to understanding subsurface formations.

Technical Presentations and Knowledge Development

Instructor-led presentations introduce the fundamental principles of rock mechanics, core sample preparation, mechanical testing equipment and laboratory procedures. Participants examine the relationship between applied stress, strain, rock strength, elastic deformation and failure behaviour.

Laboratory Testing Case Studies

Industry-based case studies demonstrate how uniaxial compression testing and triaxial rock testing generate essential mechanical properties. Participants examine testing arrangements, specimen conditions, loading procedures and the interpretation of laboratory results.

Practical Data Interpretation Exercises

Participants work with representative rock mechanics datasets to understand stress-strain relationships, compressive strength measurements, elastic modulus calculations and deformation characteristics. These exercises develop the ability to assess laboratory results and identify their relevance to geomechanical engineering.

Engineering Scenarios and Problem-Solving

Real-world scenarios examine formation instability, rock failure, reservoir compaction and wellbore integrity challenges. Participants evaluate how mechanical core testing results support engineering assessments and operational decisions.

Group Discussions and Technical Review

Collaborative discussions encourage participants to examine different testing approaches, compare laboratory findings and assess the limitations of mechanical data. These activities strengthen technical communication between geologists, petrophysicists, drilling engineers and reservoir engineering professionals.

Integrated Application Exercises

The final learning activities connect rock mechanics testing with reservoir characterisation and field development requirements. Participants examine how laboratory measurements support geomechanical models, drilling programmes, completion strategies and production planning.

This methodology provides a practical learning environment in which participants develop the ability to understand testing procedures, evaluate mechanical properties and apply laboratory findings to operational challenges.

Organisational impact

Organisations operating in the oil and gas sector require reliable subsurface data to manage drilling risks, optimise reservoir development and maintain well integrity. Rock mechanics testing provides essential information about the mechanical characteristics of formations and their response to operational stresses. The capabilities developed through this course strengthen the organisation's ability to use laboratory data in engineering decisions.

Improved Drilling Risk Assessment

A better understanding of rock strength, deformation and failure behaviour supports more informed wellbore stability assessments. Engineering teams gain improved technical insight into formation failure mechanisms, helping them evaluate drilling risks and establish appropriate well planning considerations.

More Reliable Geomechanical Models

Accurate mechanical properties contribute to the development and calibration of geomechanical models. Better interpretation of elastic properties and strength parameters improves the technical basis for evaluating subsurface stress conditions and formation behaviour.

Enhanced Reservoir Characterisation

Mechanical core testing complements conventional core analysis by providing information about the mechanical response of reservoir formations. Integrating these datasets supports a more comprehensive understanding of reservoir characteristics and their implications for field development.

Reduced Operational Uncertainty

A structured understanding of laboratory testing procedures, sample quality and measurement limitations improves confidence in mechanical data. Organisations strengthen their ability to identify unreliable measurements and distinguish between representative and potentially misleading test results.

Improved Wellbore Integrity Assessments

Knowledge of rock deformation and failure behaviour supports the evaluation of formation stability around wellbores. This contributes to better-informed assessments of drilling conditions, casing requirements and long-term well integrity.

Better Reservoir Management Decisions

Rock strength and elastic properties provide useful inputs for assessing reservoir compaction, stress changes and deformation during production. These insights support reservoir management strategies and the evaluation of potential geomechanical production challenges.

More Effective Technical Collaboration

The programme develops a common technical understanding of rock mechanics testing among geologists, petrophysicists, drilling engineers and reservoir engineers. Improved communication supports more coordinated technical reviews and engineering decisions.

Stronger Laboratory Data Quality

Understanding specimen preparation, testing procedures and measurement limitations supports more consistent laboratory practices. Organisations benefit from improved awareness of testing quality requirements, data validation and technical reporting.

Personal impact

Participants develop practical technical knowledge that strengthens their contribution to rock mechanics, core analysis and geomechanical engineering activities.

Advanced Technical Understanding

Participants gain a structured understanding of the mechanical properties of reservoir rocks, including compressive strength, elastic modulus, Poisson's ratio and deformation characteristics.

Improved Testing Knowledge

The course develops familiarity with uniaxial compression testing, triaxial rock testing, specimen preparation and laboratory measurement procedures. Participants understand the purpose, application and limitations of different mechanical testing methods.

Stronger Data Interpretation Skills

Participants improve their ability to interpret stress-strain curves, evaluate rock strength measurements and understand the relationship between applied stress and rock deformation.

Enhanced Engineering Judgement

A stronger understanding of mechanical properties enables participants to contribute more effectively to drilling, reservoir engineering and geomechanical assessments.

Broader Professional Capability

Participants develop knowledge that connects conventional core analysis with mechanical rock evaluation. This broadens their technical contribution to integrated reservoir characterisation and subsurface engineering projects.

Improved Technical Communication

Participants gain the ability to discuss mechanical testing results, explain laboratory findings and communicate their engineering significance to multidisciplinary teams.

Professional Development

The programme strengthens the technical foundation required for professionals seeking greater responsibility in core analysis, rock mechanics, reservoir characterisation and geomechanical engineering.

Who should attend

- Rock Mechanics Engineers: Professionals responsible for evaluating rock strength, deformation behaviour and geomechanical properties.
- Geomechanical Engineers: Specialists involved in formation stability, subsurface stress evaluation and geomechanical modelling.
- Core Analysis Engineers and Specialists: Personnel responsible for evaluating core samples and interpreting laboratory testing results.
- Petrophysicists: Professionals integrating core measurements with formation evaluation and reservoir characterisation.
- Reservoir Engineers: Engineers requiring mechanical rock properties for reservoir management, compaction studies and production assessments.
- Drilling Engineers: Professionals evaluating formation failure, wellbore stability and drilling-related geomechanical challenges.
- Geologists and Reservoir Geologists: Specialists involved in understanding rock characteristics and their relationship with reservoir performance.
- Laboratory Technicians and Supervisors: Personnel responsible for core preparation, mechanical testing equipment and laboratory quality procedures.
- Well Integrity Engineers: Professionals assessing formation behaviour and mechanical factors affecting well integrity.
- Production Engineers: Engineers evaluating reservoir deformation, compaction and mechanical challenges associated with production.
- Petroleum Engineers: Professionals requiring a broader understanding of rock mechanics and its applications in upstream operations.

- Technical Managers and Department Heads: Managers overseeing core analysis, laboratory operations, drilling engineering, reservoir studies and subsurface technical activities.

- Research and Development Professionals: Specialists involved in improving testing procedures, mechanical property evaluation and subsurface engineering methods.

Course outline

Fundamentals of Rock Mechanics and Core Sample Preparation

This module introduces the fundamental principles of rock mechanics and their relevance to subsurface engineering in the oil and gas industry. Participants examine the physical and mechanical characteristics of reservoir rocks and understand how lithology, mineral composition, porosity, fractures and sample condition influence mechanical behaviour.

The module also explores the importance of representative core samples in laboratory testing. Participants examine core handling, specimen preparation, dimensional accuracy and sample quality considerations before mechanical testing. Particular attention is given to the relationship between sample characteristics and the reliability of subsequent laboratory measurements.

Uniaxial Compression Testing and Rock Strength Measurement

This module examines uniaxial compression testing as a fundamental method for determining the compressive strength of intact rock specimens. Participants explore the principles of axial loading, specimen positioning, testing equipment and the measurement of rock failure under unconfined conditions.

The module also examines stress-strain behaviour and the interpretation of compression test results. Participants develop an understanding of how rock strength measurement supports formation evaluation, drilling engineering and geomechanical assessments. The influence of specimen geometry, loading conditions and rock characteristics on measured strength is also addressed.

Triaxial Rock Testing and Failure Behaviour

This module focuses on triaxial rock testing and its importance in evaluating rock strength under simulated subsurface stress conditions. Unlike uniaxial testing, triaxial testing introduces confining pressure around the specimen, providing a more representative understanding of how rocks behave under complex underground loading conditions.

Participants examine triaxial testing equipment, specimen preparation, confining pressure, axial loading and the interpretation of test results. The module explores how changes in confining pressure influence rock strength and failure behaviour. Participants also examine the relationship between laboratory measurements, rock failure envelopes and the mechanical response of reservoir formations.

Elastic Properties, Stress-Strain Relationships and Rock Deformation

This module examines the elastic properties of reservoir rocks and their importance in understanding deformation under applied stress. Participants explore the mechanical relationship between stress and strain, focusing on Young's modulus, Poisson's ratio and the elastic response of intact rock specimens.

The module also considers how rocks respond to different loading conditions and how elastic and inelastic deformation influence subsurface engineering. Participants examine stress-strain curves, deformation characteristics and the determination of elastic properties from mechanical testing data. The practical relevance of these measurements to geomechanical modelling, reservoir compaction and wellbore stability is emphasised.

Mechanical Core Testing Interpretation and Oil and Gas Applications

This module integrates the mechanical testing techniques covered throughout the programme and examines their application to practical oil and gas engineering challenges. Participants explore how uniaxial compression testing, triaxial rock testing and elastic property measurements contribute to a comprehensive understanding of reservoir rock behaviour.

The module focuses on interpreting laboratory results, evaluating data quality and translating mechanical properties into engineering information. Participants examine the use of rock mechanics data in wellbore stability analysis, drilling risk assessment, reservoir compaction studies, hydraulic fracturing considerations and formation integrity evaluations. Emphasis is placed on recognising laboratory limitations and communicating reliable technical conclusions.

Scheduled dates

Dates	Venue	Format	Fee
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Abuja, Nigeria	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Accra, Ghana	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Alberta, Canada	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	AlUla, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Amman, Jordan	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Amsterdam, Netherlands	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Athens, Greece	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Baku, Azerbaijan	In person	£4,200

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23 - 27 Nov 2026	Barcelona, Spain	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Berlin, Germany	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Boston, United States	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Brussels, Belgium	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Budapest, Hungary	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Cairo, Egypt	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Cape Town, South Africa	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Casablanca, Morocco	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Dammam, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Dhahran, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Doha, Qatar	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Edinburgh, United Kingdom	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Edmonton, Canada	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Frankfurt, Germany	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Geneva, Switzerland	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Houston, United States	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Istanbul, Turkey	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Jakarta, Indonesia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Jubail, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Khamis Mushait, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Kigali, Rwanda	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Lisbon, Portugal	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Liverpool, United Kingdom	In person	£4,200

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23 - 27 Nov 2026	London, United Kingdom	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Los Angeles, United States	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Luanda, Angola	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Madrid, Spain	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Manama, Bahrain	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Marbella, Spain	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Marrakech, Morocco	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Miami, United States	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Milan, Italy	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Munich, Germany	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Muscat, Oman	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	Nairobi, Kenya	In person	£4,200
23 - 27 Nov 2026	New York, United States	In person	£4,200
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22 - 26 Nov 2027	Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Alberta, Canada	In person	£4,200

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22 - 26 Nov 2027	Athens, Greece	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Baku, Azerbaijan	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Barcelona, Spain	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Berlin, Germany	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Boston, United States	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Brussels, Belgium	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Budapest, Hungary	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Cairo, Egypt	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Cape Town, South Africa	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Casablanca, Morocco	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Dammam, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Dhahran, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Doha, Qatar	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Edinburgh, United Kingdom	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Edmonton, Canada	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Frankfurt, Germany	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Geneva, Switzerland	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Houston, United States	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Istanbul, Turkey	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Jakarta, Indonesia	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Jubail, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200

Dates	Venue	Format	Fee
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Khamis Mushait, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Kigali, Rwanda	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Lisbon, Portugal	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Liverpool, United Kingdom	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	London, United Kingdom	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Los Angeles, United States	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Luanda, Angola	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Madrid, Spain	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Manama, Bahrain	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Marbella, Spain	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Marrakech, Morocco	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Miami, United States	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Milan, Italy	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Munich, Germany	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Muscat, Oman	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Nairobi, Kenya	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	New York, United States	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Nice, France	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Nouakchott, Mauritania	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Oslo, Norway	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Paris, France	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Port Louis, Mauritius	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Prague, Czech Republic	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Pretoria, South Africa	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	In person	£4,200

Dates	Venue	Format	Fee
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Rome, Italy	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Singapore	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Stockholm, Sweden	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Tokyo, Japan	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Toronto, Canada	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Tromso, Norway	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Vienna, Austria	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Zagreb, Croatia	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Zurich, Switzerland	In person	£4,200
22 - 26 Nov 2027	Online, Virtual	Online	£4,200

Certificate

Upon successful completion of the Rock Mechanics Testing and Core Analysis Training Course, attendees receive a Certificate of Completion from Institute For Oil & Gas Training.

The certificate recognises participation in the programme and completion of its training requirements. Attendees are required to meet the course attendance requirement of at least 80% of the total programme to qualify for the Certificate of Completion.