

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

REQUIREMENTS FOR M.S. PHYSICAL SCIENCE (GEOLOGY CONCENTRATION)

1. Applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree from an approved, accredited institution of higher learning with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their major. Students with undergraduate degrees not in Geology will be required to take additional course work (as determined by the Geology Faculty) to provide an adequate foundation in the area of concentration. Admission to the Graduate School is a prerequisite for enrollment in graduate courses.
2. Applicant must take GRE (Graduate Record Exam) no later than the first semester of enrollment.
3. A proposed graduate curriculum must be submitted and approved by the Geology faculty following admission to the Graduate School. This must be completed no later than the end of the second semester of graduate work. The proposed curriculum must include at least 12 hours (maximum 18 hours) of 500-600 level geology courses, and a total of at least 32 hours including 6 hours thesis.
4. A thesis proposal must be submitted and approved by the Geology Department, preferably by the end of the second semester of graduate studies.
5. Applicant must apply for candidacy after completing 12 to 18 hours of required course work with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Student must be admitted to candidacy at least 1 semester before graduation.
6. Candidate must successfully complete a qualifying examination after having completed 12 hours of graduate course work. This should be attempted before thesis work has progressed significantly. The exam will be administered orally by the Geology faculty, and will be coordinated by the student's thesis advisor. The exam is designed to ensure that the candidate can demonstrate a broad comprehension and synthesis of geological sciences. Only 3 attempts will be allowed to successfully complete the qualifying exam. In case of failure, the candidate must wait at least 1 semester to retake the exam.
7. Candidate must demonstrate proficiency either in a foreign language or in computer language. This requirement may be fulfilled by successful completion of one of the following:
 - a. A language exam administered by the appropriate department,
 - b. Completion of the College of Science foreign language requirement for undergraduate students, or
 - c. Demonstration of computer proficiency as determined by the Department of Geology.
8. The candidate must have completed a field camp course with a minimum grade of B. The Geology Department may alternatively approve a field-oriented course or experience for the field camp requirement.
9. Candidate must orally present and successfully defend his thesis before his/her thesis committee. The defense will serve as the culminating academic experience and be considered the "comprehensive examination" by the Graduate School.
10. At the beginning of the semester in which the candidate plans to defend his/her thesis, the candidate must submit to the Graduate School an application for graduation by the university deadline at the beginning of the semester. This application triggers the paperwork from the Graduate School for the faculty committee members who will serve on the candidate's thesis committee.
11. Candidate must submit a final copy of his thesis which must be approved by his thesis committee.