



Master of Science in Geology --- Requirements

1. Admission to the Master of Science (M. S.) Program in Geology

The objective of the Master of Science (M.S.) degree program at the University of Oklahoma is to prepare the student for a successful professional career in geology. The requirements for the achievement of this goal are a broad, sound background in geology/geophysics, a demonstrated ability to design and carry out a research project, and the ability to express the results of this work clearly and logically. The structure of the M.S. degree program has been designed to accomplish these goals.

The M.S. program in Geology is structured to encourage students with strong science, math, or engineering backgrounds to apply for admission by being flexible in terms of coursework required. If a student needs to increase their education foundation in Geology, Math, etc., the student's M.S. committee advisor will require a set of courses that will allow them to achieve knowledge equivalent to the B.S. degree in Geology at the University of Oklahoma. This plan must be agreed upon prior to admission and must be approved by the graduate affairs committee of the school.

Admissions requirements and procedures can be found at geology.ou.edu under Apply to CPSGG.

2. Minimum Course Work Requirements for Degree

The M.S. degree in geology requires at least 26 hours of course work (*not including deficiency courses assessed by the student's advisor and/or M.S. Committee*) and 4 hours of thesis research. At least 14 of the 26 hours must be in 5000- and 6000-level courses. Any 3000-4000 level courses **MUST** carry Graduate Credit, please verify with department advisor regarding eligible courses. To ensure breadth in the student's program, the course work must include at least one course from three (3) of the following six (6) core areas of study (*each faculty member determines which areas their graduate course(s) satisfies*).

Core areas are as follows:

- Geochemistry
- Geophysics
- Igneous and metamorphic petrology
- Paleontology and Paleobiology
- Sedimentary geology
- Structural geology

To receive the M.S. degree, the student must take three (3) hours (carrying graduate credit) of science, mathematics, or engineering courses outside of geology and geophysics and approved by the student's major professor. A student may use previous course work over and above the full graduate-standing admission requirements to satisfy the outside science requirement *if* the courses would carry graduate credit at the University of Oklahoma and are applicable to the student's program of study. However, courses taken as an undergraduate will not contribute to the 30 hours required for the M.S. degree. The remaining fourteen (14) credits are Electives and should be decided on between student and faculty advisor.



3. Thesis Proposal

A proposal signed by the student's M.S. Committee must be on file, preferably by the end of the student's second semester. The Thesis Proposal is required to register for thesis credits. Deposit a copy of the proposal to the Department Advisor to keep on file.

4. Annual Progress Report

It is the student's responsibility to complete the annual Graduate Student Progress report, to secure the written approval of his/her M.S. committee, and to file the completed and approved report in April of each year of matriculation.

5. Thesis Defense

Each student must hold a Defense of Thesis oral examination before graduation, supervised by the student's M.S. Committee. The Defense of Thesis will begin with an oral presentation of the thesis research that should be 30 minutes in length. A reading copy must be provided to all members of the committee at least 14 days prior to the defense. The defense shall be announced at least one week in advance. The Coordinator of Administrative Student Services, will be notified in a timely manner and supplied with the time, date, and thesis title so that a notice may be published one week before the colloquium/defense. Students are strongly encouraged to present their work at national conferences and publish their thesis in peer-reviewed journals.

The Graduate College requirements are listed in the Graduate College Bulletin

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