

# GEOSCIENCES, MS

The Department of Geosciences offers the Master of Science (MS) degree program, which trains students for professional practice and/or continued graduate study. With the MS program of study, you will develop into a professional that is not just a technical worker, but a leader that can manage and carry out complex projects that include development, analysis, interpretation, and communication of results. The typical course of study takes two years to complete.

The Geosciences MS program provides our students with a strong scientific background and intensive research experience, culminating in a formal thesis. The MS degree requires both coursework and research. These help the student build observation, critical thinking, quantification, and presentation skills. Our goal is for students to gain deep knowledge in a subfield of geosciences and a broad understanding of the overall discipline. We strive to prepare students for scientific careers in academia, government, or industry.

## Admission Requirements

### Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

### Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) plus the following departmental requirements to be considered for admission to the program:

- Undergraduate preparation consisting of one year each of: college chemistry, college physics, and calculus; one summer of field training in geology for students majoring in geology.
- Undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale).

Applicants may be admitted with specific program-defined course deficiencies provided that the deficiencies amount to no more than two courses.

The student is expected to satisfy deficiency requirements within three enrolled semesters. The deficiencies are monitored by the Graduate School and the individual graduate program unit. No course credits earned in making up deficiencies may be counted as program credits required for the degree. A geology student who lacks field training must acquire the training not later than the summer following initial enrollment.

## Credits and Courses

Minimum degree requirement is 30 graduate credits, at least 24 of which must be earned in formal course credits and up to 6 of which may be earned through an acceptable thesis.

Code	Title	Credits
	Formal Course Credits	24
GEO SCI 990 *		6
	Total Credits	30

- \* A graduate student is allowed to register for a maximum of nine 990 research credits, no more than 6 of which may be counted toward the 30-credit requirement.

## Additional Requirements

All students in their second or later year are required to present a progress report annually to the Department.

### Major Professor as Advisor

The student must have a major professor to advise and supervise the student's studies as specified in Graduate School regulations. The student is assigned a temporary advisor at the time of initial enrollment and requests a faculty member to serve as the thesis advisor after selecting an area of specialization.

### Proposal for Thesis

Prior to the formal undertaking of thesis research, the student must prepare a written proposal for the thesis problem including an estimate of costs to be incurred. Copies of the proposal are to be distributed to the faculty advisor and the Department reading file. One copy is to be placed in the student's permanent Department file. An abstract of the proposal is to be distributed to each Department faculty member for comment and criticism.

### Thesis

The student must write an acceptable thesis embodying the results of original research completed under the direction of the advisor.

### Comprehensive Examination

The student must pass a comprehensive examination, either oral or written or both. In part a defense of the thesis, the examination covers the student's entire graduate program of studies. At the option of the student, the part of the examination consisting of the presentation of the results of thesis research may be open to other graduate students.

### Time Limit

The student must complete all degree requirements within five years of initial enrollment.