



MEWBOURNE COLLEGE OF EARTH AND ENERGY
SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

Master of Science in Geology --- Requirements

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

The objective of the MS Geology 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 MS degree program has been designed to accomplish these goals.

The MS 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 MS committee advisor will require a set of courses that will allow them to achieve knowledge equivalent to the BS degree in Geology at the University of Oklahoma. This plan must be agreed upon prior to admission.

Admissions requirements and procedures can be found at <https://www.ou.edu/mcee/geosciences/apply>.

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 MS Committee) and 4 hours of thesis research. Students should be enrolling in primarily 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
- Environmental Geoscience and Hydrology

Along with satisfying the Core Areas, students must take GEOL 5001: Topics in Geosciences, and a 3-hour graded course in a science, mathematics, or engineering courses outside of geology and geophysics and approved by the student's major professor. The remaining 12 hours credits are General Electives and should be decided on between student and faculty advisor.



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3. MS Committee

The MS committee must contain 3 members, at least 2 members need to be active faculty members from the School of Geosciences. The third member can be from outside Geosciences, if appropriate and approved by the faculty advisor.

4. Annual Progress Report/IDPs

It is the student's responsibility to complete the annual Graduate Student Progress report, to secure the written approval of his/her MS committee, and to file the completed and approved report in April of each year of matriculation. Students will also be asked to complete their Individual Development Plans (IDPs) with their advisors each year.

5. Thesis Proposal

A Thesis proposal should accompany the student's Program of Study and Thesis Topic & Committee Membership forms, which are signed by the student's MS Committee and Graduate Liaison the semester before graduation. The student is also responsible for fulfilling all Graduate College requirements for the MS.

6. Thesis and Publishing

MS students are highly encouraged to prepare a thesis in manuscript form and submit the manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal around the time of graduation, or shortly thereafter. It is not required that the manuscript be accepted, in press, or published before MS students graduate. Students should coordinate with their thesis advisor to plan for a manuscript-style thesis from the beginning of their program.

7. Thesis Defense

The student will have a Defense of Thesis oral examination before graduation, supervised by the student's MS Committee. The Defense of Thesis will begin with an oral presentation of the masters research that should be 30 minutes in length. Students should be aware of the Graduate College deadline requirements regarding their Degree Check, Reading Copy and Defense: <https://www.ou.edu/gradcollege/forms-and-policies/steps-to-degree>. The defense shall be announced at least one week in advance. Students should submit their thesis time, date, title and abstract within a timely manner so that a notice may be published one week before the colloquium/defense.

The Graduate College requirements are listed in the [Graduate College Bulletin](#)