



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

## Doctor of Philosophy in Geology --- Requirements

### 1. Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Program in Geology

A student must have a Master of Science (M.S.) Degree in science, mathematics, engineering, or degree in a similar discipline to be admitted to the Ph.D. program. Students currently enrolled in one of the Geosciences MS programs may proceed to the Ph.D. program after successfully defending their Master's thesis with the written approval of the student's M.S. thesis committee.

### 2. Minimum Course Work Requirements for Admission

Minimum course requirements for admission into the doctoral program will be determined by the student's dissertation advisor. Before a student can be admitted into the Geology doctoral program, the student will need to be accepted by a specific faculty member who will ultimately become his/her dissertation advisor.

Other course work deficiencies may be assessed by the Dissertation Committee at the time he/she submits their "Advisory Conference Report"

Students who are deficient in required coursework must complete deficiency coursework at the earliest offering of the appropriate course(s) at OU.

### 3. Minimum Course Work Requirements for Degree

Requirements for the doctoral degree can be found on the Graduate College website at <https://www.ou.edu/gradcollege/forms-and-policies/forms>. Students in the PhD program must complete at least 15 hours of graded coursework at The University of Oklahoma. Twelve hours of graded coursework must be completed before or concurrent with their General Exam. Courses completed towards an MS degree at the University of Oklahoma may not be included in the required 15 hours.

### 4. PhD Committee

Each student must have at least 4 committee members. The majority of the committee need to be active faculty members with the School of Geosciences. One member must be an active faculty member from a department outside of Geosciences to serve as the 'Graduate College Representative'. Individuals from outside The University of Oklahoma may be awarded 'Special Membership' through the Graduate College to sit on committees, barring approval by Geosciences Committee A.

### 5. General Examination

The General Examination is intended to test the student's mastery of a number of related fields as well as the capacity for synthesis, sound generalization and critical ability. The General Examination will consist of both a written and oral examination in the student's major field and will be prepared by the student's Ph.D. Committee. The written examination will be followed, within two weeks, by the oral examination in the presence of the entire committee. For students who enter the Geosciences Doctoral Program by application, the General Examination should be preparing for their exams by the end of the second year of the student's



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enrollment in the Ph.D. program. Students who transfer into the Ph.D. program from a Geoscience MS degree should prepare to complete their General Exam after the first year of the PhD program.

6. 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 Ph.D. 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.

7. Dissertation Proposal/ACR

A dissertation proposal should accompany the student's Advisory Conference Report (ACR) which is signed by the student's Ph.D. Committee and Graduate Liaison around the time of the student's second year. The student is also responsible for fulfilling all Graduate College requirements for the Ph.D.

8. Dissertation and Publishing

PhD students are required to design and execute a dissertation that will ultimately constitute a series of publishable manuscripts. Prior to defending, a student must have one refereed paper accepted, in press, or published as first author on research completed as part of their Ph.D. program, in a peer-reviewed journal. The student will not be authorized to defend until the Geosciences graduate liaison has confirmed the student has met this requirement. Doctoral advisors are expected to provide appropriate and timely mentoring and feedback from the beginning of a student's PhD program through the defense as the student works towards these publication goals. In extreme cases, a student may petition the Graduate Liaison and Committee A for any exception to this requirement, which should be a rare occurrence. The Graduate Liaison and Committee A must be unanimous in granting and documenting (in a transparent manner) any exception.

9. Dissertation Defense

The student will have a Defense of Dissertation oral examination before graduation, supervised by the student's Ph.D. Committee. The Defense of Dissertation will begin with an oral presentation of the dissertation research that should be 40 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 dissertation title, date, title and abstract within a timely manner so that a notice may be published one week before the colloquium/defense.

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