

# GEOLOGY, MS

*for the degree of Master of Science in Geology*

Students in the Master of Science program can follow the "standard" (or thesis) option or the "applied geology" (or non-thesis) option. The non-thesis option is intended as a terminal degree for students preparing for professional work in environmental and engineering geology or in applied geophysics and who have already been admitted to the program. We do not currently accept new students for the non-thesis master's degree. Admitted students must declare their intent to pursue the non-thesis option at least one semester prior to completing degree requirements.

## Admission

The admission requirements of the Graduate College apply. Completion of at least one year each of study in college-level calculus, chemistry, and physics are required for admission to graduate work in geology. For more information, write to the department contact. Under special circumstances, students can be admitted at the beginning of the spring term.

## Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program.

## Financial Aid

Candidates for graduate degrees are usually supported through fellowships, research assistantships, teaching assistantships, or work-study programs. Fellowships and assistantships include tuition and service fee waivers. Awards for financial assistance are based principally on a candidate's academic record, statement of plans, and letters of reference. Continuation of financial aid depends on student performance and, in the case of teaching assistants, on the receipt of good evaluations. Some assistants are appointed by the State Geological Survey located on campus.

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For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Degree Programs (<https://esec.illinois.edu/academics/graduate-program/>) and the Graduate College Handbook (<https://grad.illinois.edu/handbooks-policies/>).

## Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
	Formal coursework (24 min)	24
GEOL 599	Thesis Research (8 max applied toward degree)	8
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>32</b>

## Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Minimum Hours Overall Required	12
Within the Unit:	
Minimum 500-level Hours Required	12
Overall:	
Each student must present a colloquium on the thesis research	
All students must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (A = 4.0). If the GPA falls below this minimum after 12 or more graduate hours of graded coursework, it must be raised to 3.0 or above after the completion of 12 additional graduate hours of graded coursework and must be maintained at or above the minimum thereafter.	

## Non-Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
	Formal coursework (32 min)	32
	Research/Project Hours (4 min applied toward degree)	4
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>40</b>

## Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Minimum Hours Overall Required	12
Within the Unit:	
Minimum 500-level Hours Required	12
Overall:	
Requires a written report	
400 level coursework is limited to 8 hours required in any of the options of the undergraduate curriculum in geology and geophysics at Urbana-Champaign	

All students must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (A = 4.0). If the GPA falls below this minimum after 12 or more graduate hours of graded coursework, it must be raised to 3.0 or above after the completion of 12 additional graduate hours of graded coursework and must be maintained at or above the minimum thereafter.

Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)

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1. All graduate students will have a broad understanding of basic foundational theories and phenomena that describe the makeup and functioning of the Earth, across the fields of geology and geophysics. Students should have mastered all areas at the level of GEOL 107 and 208, and should have mastered areas close to their area of specialty at the level of the core classes (e.g., 400-level) of our undergraduate curriculum.
2. All graduate students will have a high level of expertise (beyond the level of our undergraduate program) in their specialized research area within geoscience and any related sciences, and the ability to apply this expertise, along with theoretical and technical skills, to address new scientific questions in that area.
3. All graduate students will have knowledge of the recent development of their specialized area of research and current major research directions and questions.
4. All graduate students will have the ability to work independently to develop a research project and creatively answer the questions central to the project.
5. All graduate students will have ethically responsible and effective communication skills, written and verbal, at a professional scientific level.

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### **Graduate Degree Programs in Geology**

- Geology, MS (p. 1)
- Environmental Geology, MS (online) (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/environmental-geology-ms/>)
- Geology, PhD (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/geology-phd/>)

The Department of Geology offers programs leading to the Master of Science in Geology and the Doctor of Philosophy in Geology. Students have a wide variety of choices in their courses and research programs. Departmental research programs include many aspects of geology, geochemistry, and geophysics

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**Head of Department:** Craig Lundstrom

**Director of Graduate Studies:** Lijun Liu

**Department Contact:** Lana Holben ([holben@illinois.edu](mailto:holben@illinois.edu))

Geology Department website (<https://www.geology.illinois.edu/>)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences website (<https://las.illinois.edu/>)

3028 Natural History Building, 1301 W. Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-3540

### **Admissions**

*Information listed in this catalog is current as of 09/2024*