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. In addition, scores for the aptitude test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are required for admission to graduate work in geology, as well as completion of at least one year each of study in college-level calculus, chemistry, and physics. 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.
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.