Ph.D. students are evaluated by three oral examinations: a qualifying examination, a preliminary examination, and a final examination. The qualifying examination tests breadth of knowledge as well as the ability to define and defend a research proposal in a specialized field at an early stage of graduate study. The preliminary examination tests advanced knowledge in a specialized field and the ability to define and defend a Ph.D. dissertation proposal. The final examination tests the ability to complete and defend Ph.D. dissertation research.

Graduate Degree Programs in Geology
   Geology, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/geology-ms/)
   Environmental Geology, MS (online) (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/environmental-geology-ms/)
   Geology, PhD (p. 1)

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.

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 graduate secretary. 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.