



Geological Engineering: Degree Requirements & Graduate Curriculum Form

Because Geological Engineering appeals to students with a wide variety of backgrounds and with different areas of intended emphasis, there are no specific courses that are uniformly required for graduate degrees in Geological Engineering. The student and their Mentor and Evaluation Committee collaboratively develop a curriculum in the student's area of interest. The Mentor and Evaluation Committee must approve the curriculum during the first year of study, and preferably during the first semester.

Specific Requirements

The following must be satisfied to obtain a degree in Geological Engineering:

- A grade-point average of 3.0 (on 4.0 scale) or higher in all graduate work. Credits for a course in which the student receives a grade of less than B cannot be applied towards the degree requirements unless specifically approved by the Mentor and Evaluation Committee.
- **MS Students:** At least 24 graduate credits must be completed following the course guidelines established by the student's Mentor and Evaluation Committee. If a thesis is completed, up to 6 of the 24 credits can be used for Thesis Research. If an independent study is completed, up to 3 of the 24 credits can be used for Independent Study. At least 3 credits must be in advanced graduate course work. Although the student's Mentor and Evaluation Committee defines advanced course work, such courses normally are numbered 700 or higher.

In addition to course work, MS students must successfully complete a final exam conducted by the Mentor and Evaluation Committee. MS students completing a thesis must also submit an approved thesis to the graduate school.

- **PhD Students:** At least 32 graduate credits beyond the BS degree must be completed (for students who have earned a MS degree, credits accumulated for the MS can be applied towards this requirement). These credits consist of formal course work (following guidelines established by the student's Mentor and Evaluation Committee), independent study, minor subject study, and research/dissertation credits. Typically 18-24 credits are allocated for research/dissertation work.

A minor is required for all PhDs. The minor consists of a minimum of 9 credits of course work outside the major field of study and can either be concentrated in one department (Option A) or distributed across two or more departments (Option B). In the case of Option A, the department in which the courses were taken must approve the minor. For Option B, approval comes from the Mentor and Evaluation Committee and the GLE Chair.

PhD students must also successfully complete the qualification exam, preliminary exam, and dissertation defense and submit an approved dissertation to the graduate school.

