Geological Engineering: Degree Requirements & Graduate Proposed Curriculum Form

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 Committee collaboratively develop a curriculum in the student’s area of interest. The Mentor Committee must approve the curriculum during the first year of study, and preferably during the first semester.

**Department 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:**
- **Thesis Option:** This option requires a minimum of **30 credits of graduate work**, including at least 16 credits of graduate-level coursework (300-level and higher) and a thesis (GLE 790) worth at least 6 credits. Students who wish to do advanced work and research in a well-defined area of specialization are encouraged to pursue this program. Upon graduation, MS students completing a thesis must also submit an approved thesis to the GLE Graduate Student Coordinator to deposit into Minds at UW for electronic access and safe archiving.

- **Independent Study Option:** This option requires a minimum of **30 credits of graduate work**, including at least 21 credits of graduate-level coursework (300-level and higher) and an advanced independent study project (GLE 999) worth at least 3 credits; At least 3 credits must be in advanced graduate coursework. Although the student's Mentor Committee defines advanced coursework, such courses normally are numbered 700 or higher. A written report must be prepared based on the independent study project. This report does not have to meet the UW-Madison Graduate School requirements for a thesis, but has to show independent thinking by the student. At least 30 graduate credits must be completed following the course guidelines established by the student's Mentor and Evaluation Committee.
  **In addition to course work, MS students must successfully complete a final exam/review conducted by the Mentor Committee.**

**PhD Students:** At least **51 graduate credits of graduate work** beyond the BS degree must be completed (for students who have earned a MS degree at UW-Madison, 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 Committee), independent study, minor subject study, and research/dissertation credits. Typically 18-24 credits are allocated for research/dissertation work.

**PhD Minor:** 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 proposed minor. For Option B, approval comes from the Mentor Committee and the GLE Graduate Committee Chair. The PhD minor approval form is available on the GLE Graduate Student website or in the Student Services Office.

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

Turn this form into the GLE Graduate Student Coordinator, in the South Student Services Office, by the end of the first semester or no later than the beginning of the second semester.
Curriculum Approval

MS and PhD students should work with their advisor and Mentor Committee to develop a curriculum. The following form should then be completed and signed by the advisor and two faculty members from the Mentor Committee.

Name__________________________________________ Campus ID#________________________

Email____________________________________________

(Check one): MS Thesis Option _______ MS Independent Study Option______ PhD candidate_______

1. Complete the course list on the following page.
   Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress
   http://grad.wisc.edu/catalog/degrees_geoengr_criteria.htm

2. Please write a brief description of your thesis topic (provide additional information on a separate page if necessary):

   Approved by: ___________________________ Date: ___________________
   (GLE Mentor Committee - Major Advisor)

   ___________________________ Date: __________________
   (GLE Mentor Committee-member)

   ___________________________ Date: __________________
   (GLE Mentor Committee-member)

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GLE Proposed Curriculum for:  

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List Independent Study and Research Credits 999, 790, 890, 990) attach add’l sheet if necessary

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