

Master of Science - Geoscience

2 Graduate Program Change 2021-22

I. General Information

The faculty member originating this proposal is to complete sections I and II.

TURN ON help text before starting this proposal by clicking  in the top right corner of the heading. You will need to turn on help text again after any actions that refresh the page including after saving proposals, importing information, or running impact reports.

IMPORT curriculum data from the Catalog by clicking  in the top left corner.

Do not make any changes to any information until the proposal has been launched in Step 4.

Department (s) (if Dual or Interdisciplinary please add all departments)*

Geoscience

Degree/ Certificate Name* Master of Science - Geoscience

Plan Code

Degree Type*

Master of Science

Program Type*

Master's

II. Program Changes

FILL IN ONLY fields required marked with an * after importing data. You will not be able to launch the proposal without completing required fields. Do not make proposed changes to the information that was imported until after the proposal has been launched in Step 4. Changes will only be tracked after the proposal is launched

Are you changing admission requirements?* Yes No

Are you changing course requirements?* Yes No

Are you changing degree completion requirements?* Yes No

Are you changing the primary instructional mode?* Yes No

Are you changing program learning objectives?* Yes No

Are you changing the culminating experience?* Yes No

If yes, describe changes to learning objectives:

Provide a Brief Summary of Proposed Changes Remove GRE from the admission requirement.

Provide a rationale for each proposed change As of August 31, a total of 76 Geoscience or Earth Science departments in U. S. universities have dropped the GRE as a requirement for graduate student admission, part of a wider trend within the STEM fields. The GRE has been demonstrated to be an ineffective way of judging a student and predicting a student's success in the graduate program. Evidence suggests that the GRE is - at best - an imperfect tool for graduate student admissions.

Do not make any changes to any information until the proposal has been launched in Step 4.

Follow these steps to change the program curriculum:

1. Click on  "View Curriculum Schema." Edit existing cores or click 'Add Core' and name your core (please use a comparable degree program in the current graduate catalog as a template). Edit or add any descriptive text (do not add courses until Step 2). Descriptive text is generally used in the following cores: Plan Description, Plan Admission Requirements, Plan Requirements, Plan Graduation Requirements.
2. There are two options for adding courses (see Step 3 to remove courses): "Add Course" and "Import Course." For courses already in the catalog, click on "Import Course" and find the courses needed. For new classes going through a Curriculog Approval Process click on "Add Course"-- a box will open asking you for the Prefix, Course Number and Course Title.
3. Click on  "View Curriculum Schema." Click on the area/header of the program where you would like to add courses. When you click on "Add Courses" it will bring up the list of courses available from Step 2. Select the courses you wish to add. For removing courses click on the  and proceed.

After you have launched proposal, update prospective curriculum here*

Plan Description

The Master of Science – Geoscience degree is designed to prepare students for a broad range of challenging careers in government service, private consulting, and industry. This thesis-based degree program also serves as a stepping-stone for those students who wish to pursue further graduate studies at the Doctoral level. Working closely with their advisor, students focus on original research in one of several areas of specialization, including: petrology, volcanology, economic geology, structural geology, sedimentary geology, geochemistry, hydrology, soil science, climate change, petroleum geology, and paleontology. Students are expected to develop original research suitable for submission to a refereed scientific journal. Students are expected to have strong content knowledge in their area of emphasis, which is tested during the culminating defense of their thesis research. For more information about your program including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes please visit the Degree Directory.

Plan Admission Requirements

The Geoscience Department admits MS students during both Fall and Spring semesters. Please see here the Admission Deadlines. Admission Requirements Include: 1. A Bachelor's degree in Geoscience or an appropriate related field. 2. A successful applicant should have overall grade point average (GPA) higher than 3.0, unless other evidence indicates that the applicant will be successful in the graduate program. 3. For international applicants whose native language is not English, a proof of English proficiency is required (<https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/english-proficiency>). 4. In order to be admitted without conditions the applicant should have completed an introductory geology class and six of the following eight classes (or their equivalents): mineralogy, geochemistry, geomorphology, structural geology, igneous and metamorphic petrology, paleontology, field geology, and sedimentology/stratigraphy. Files need to be loaded to the UNLV online application system (Rebel Gateway) include: 1. Three letters of recommendation from individuals competent to comment on the applicant's promise as a graduate student. 2. A Statement of Purpose: an essay (1–2 pages) describing the applicant's reasons for considering graduate study, goals after completion of the graduate degree, and specific area(s)/potential advisor(s) of interest. 3. A brief, one-page (maximum two-page) CV containing the applicant's address and contact information. 4. The official transcripts from all college and universities the applicant has attended (please note: conditional acceptance can be given with unofficial transcripts being submitted during application, however, those will need to be replaced for official documents if admitted). Details of the admission procedure for the M.S. Program can be found on the Department's website: <https://geoscience.unlv.edu/academics/graduate-program/> All application materials are submitted through the UNLV Graduate College Graduate Rebel Gateway. Applicants do not need to send a separate

through the UNLV Graduate College Graduate Re-entry Gateway. Applicants do not need to send a separate application to the Geoscience Department or College of Sciences.

Plan Requirements: Geoscience

Total Credits Required: 30

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 4

| | |
|--|---|
| GEOL 701 Research Methods in Geoscience | 3 |
| GEOL 795 Poster Presentation and Time Management | 1 |

Elective Courses – Credits: 20

Complete 20 credits of 600- or 700-level GEOL courses, or other advisor-approved courses.

Thesis – Credits: 6

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| GEOL 797 Thesis | 1 – 6 |
|-----------------|-------|

Plan Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credits with a minimum GPA of 3.00. At least 12 credits (excluding thesis) must be in 700-level courses. GEOL 701 and GEOL 795 must be taken during the first year of enrollment. Credits taken at other institutions will be considered for transfer; however, at least 16 of the 24 course credits required for the degree (not including thesis credits) must be taken at UNLV. Students must confer with their appointed advisor prior to enrollment in their first semester. Using Degree Audit as a guide, a degree program must be approved by the advisory committee. A thesis prospectus must be filed with the Graduate College, and a thesis committee must be appointed by the end of the second semester after admission to the college. This responsibility rests with the student. Students will be dropped from the program and separated from the Graduate College if they fail to fulfill this requirement. In consultation with their advisor, a student will organize a thesis committee of at least three departmental members. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. An additional committee member may be added at the student and department's discretion. Please see Graduate College policy for committee appointment guidelines. Satisfactory progress toward meeting the degree requirements is required of all students. Satisfactory progress includes maintaining at least a 3.00 grade point average in all graduate-level courses. Two grades of B- are permitted in the degree program as long as the GPA remains at or above 3.00. One grade of C+ or lower results in academic probation even if the overall GPA is above 3.0. Two grades of C+ or lower will result in automatic suspension from the program. Consult the Geoscience Graduate Student Guidelines at <http://geoscience.unlv.edu/graduatestudentguidelines.htm> for full details.

Plan Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements. The student must submit and successfully defend their thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public. After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

The [Degrees Directory](#) provides current and consistent degree information. Submission of this form indicates acknowledgment and understanding that every department is responsible creating and maintaining accurate and updated program information on the UNLV Degrees Directory.

If the changes included on this form impact the program handbook attach the updated handbook before submitting this form. If you need a Word version of the most recent handbook please email GradCurriculum@unlv.edu.

If new courses are added as placeholders within this proposal, new courses must be created using a Course Create form simultaneously to the process of this proposal.

Degrees Directory Program Entry* Check this box to acknowledge the above statement.

Changes will be applicable to* Current Students
 New Students
 Both Current and New Students

If applicable to current students, changes are Mandatory Optional

Effective Date*

4. LAUNCH proposal by clicking  in the top left corner.

5. After launching the proposal, make all changes and fill in all additional fields.

6. Finish the launch of your proposal by clicking the icon  located in the Proposal Toolbox on left side at top. Make your decision, comment is optional, and click on "Make decision".

You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.

III. Department Vote Information

Note: This section is to be filled out by the Department Chair on behalf of the committee.

(The role has been assigned to the corresponding person on this step. If incorrect, please notify GradCurriculum@unlv.edu)

1. Review the proposal. Discuss and make appropriate revisions.
2. Fill in vote information.
3. Then go to the proposal toolbox at the top right side. Click on  and select the corresponding decision for the committee. This will enable the proposal to go to the next person on the workflow.

You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.

If Dual or Interdisciplinary: add votes from all departments/colleges involved

(e.g. "Dpt A: / Dpt. B")

Date faculty voted on proposal August 31, 2020

Result of vote 17 yes (unanimous)

Manner of vote Google Meet (type in text)

IV. Unit Vote Information

Note: This section is to be filled out by the College Committee Chair on behalf of the committee.

(The role has been assigned to the corresponding person on this step. If incorrect, please notify GradCurriculum@unlv.edu)

1. Review the proposal. Discuss and make appropriate revisions.
2. Fill in vote information.
3. Then go to the proposal toolbox at the top right side. Click on  and select the corresponding decision for the committee. This will enable the proposal to go to the next person on the workflow.

You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.

If Dual or Interdisciplinary: add votes from all departments/colleges involved

(e.g. "College A: / College B")

Date faculty voted on proposal 9/29/20

Result of vote 5-0

Manner of vote online

V. Processing Notes (Graduate College/Registrar Use Only)

Program Alerts (E.g. This program is no longer accepting applications)

PS Processing Notes

PS Processing Date

Initials

Acalog Processing Notes

Aalog Processing Date

Initials

Comments for Master of Science - Geoscience

Curriculog

11/3/2020 3:15 pm [Reply](#)

Emily Lin has approved this proposal on Graduate College Dean.

Curriculog

11/3/2020 3:01 pm [Reply](#)

Graduate Curriculum has approved this proposal on Graduate Programs Committee.

Curriculog

11/3/2020 2:25 pm [Reply](#)

Gregory Moody has approved this proposal on behalf of Graduate Programs Committee. See [Graduate Programs Committee Agenda - Nov 3, 2020](#) for more information.

Andrew Andres

10/7/2020 3:57 pm [Reply](#)

Approved at a College of Sciences Curriculum Meeting held on 9/29/20. The vote was 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions,

Curriculog

10/7/2020 3:57 pm [Reply](#)

Andrew Andres has approved this proposal on School/College Associate Dean for Graduate Studies/ Dean.

Curriculog

10/6/2020 8:47 am [Reply](#)

Rohan Dalpatadu has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.

Curriculog

10/5/2020 10:06 am [Reply](#)

Geoscience Chair has approved this proposal on Department Chair.

Curriculog

10/1/2020 3:20 am [Reply](#)

Geoscience Graduate Coordinator has approved this proposal on Graduate Coordinator.

Curriculog

9/30/2020 2:59 pm [Reply](#)

Graduate Curriculum has approved this proposal on Technical Review.

Curriculog

9/25/2020 3:14 pm [Reply](#)

Geoscience Graduate Coordinator has approved this proposal on Originator.

Curriculog

9/25/2020 3:12 pm [Reply](#)

Geoscience Graduate Coordinator has launched this proposal.

Curriculog

9/25/2020 2:11 pm [Reply](#)

Geoscience Graduate Coordinator imported from the map 2021-2022 Working Graduate Catalog into the following proposal fields: I. General Information: Degree/ Certificate Name, I. General Information: Degree Type, I. General Information: Program Type, II. Program Changes: After you have launched proposal, update prospective curriculum here.