

Doctor of Philosophy - 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* Doctor of Philosophy - Geoscience

Plan Code

Degree Type*

Doctor of Philosophy

Program Type*

Doctoral

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 the GRE from 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 Doctor of Philosophy – Geoscience degree is designed to prepare students for demanding research-oriented careers in academia, government service, private consulting, and industry. Working closely with their advisors, students focus on original research in an emphasis area. Research expectations are high; students are expected to develop original lines of research that will lead to three or more original manuscripts that are suitable for submission to a refereed scientific journal. Students are expected to have strong content knowledge in their area of emphasis and three additional sub-disciplines of the geological sciences. Fundamental knowledge levels are tested first in a diagnostic interview that is used to guide coursework taken by the student, and then later in a comprehensive exam. 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 PhD students during both Fall and Spring semesters. Please see here the Admission Deadlines Admission Requirements Include: 1. A Bachelor's or Master'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 (Grad 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 PhD 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 application to the Geoscience Department or College of Sciences

application to the Geoscience Department of College of Sciences.

Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below. Subplan 1: Post-Bachelor's Subplan 2: Post-Master's

Subplan 1 Requirements: Post-Bachelor's

Total Credits Required: 60

Course Requirements

Required Course – Credits: 3

GEOL 701 Research Methods in Geoscience

3

Elective Courses – Credits: 45

Complete 45 credits of 600- or 700-level GEOL courses, or other advisor-approved courses.

Dissertation – Credits: 12

GEOL 799 Dissertation

3 – 6

Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 60 credits with a minimum GPA of 3.00. A minimum of 24 of the 60 credits required must be at the 700-level. Although more course work and dissertation credits may be taken, only 12 credits of Dissertation, and 48 course credits will be counted toward the degree program. Doctoral students are encouraged to take courses from outside of geoscience; however, a minimum of 15 credits must be geoscience (GEOL) courses. A maximum of three credits of Independent Study are permitted, except in special circumstances in which case permission from the doctoral advising committee, the department Graduate Coordinator and the department chair is required. Satisfactory progress toward meeting the degree requirements is required of all candidates. Satisfactory progress is defined as, at a minimum: Maintenance of 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. Selecting a dissertation advisor and committee. The advisor must be selected before the end of the first semester and the committee before the end of the second semester. Scheduling of an interview with the advisor either during or before the first semester. If an advisor is not selected, a temporary advisor will be assigned by the graduate coordinator. The purpose of the interview is to develop a plan of course work for the first year. 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. Scheduling of a diagnostic interview with the Advisory Committee before the end of the 2nd semester. The purpose of the interview is to develop a list of recommended courses and design the student's degree program, which must be submitted prior to completing 16 credits of course work toward the degree. Preparation of a dissertation proposal and satisfactory performance on a Proposal Defense Examination. This examination must be completed prior to the end of the third semester. The Proposal Defense Examination focuses on the dissertation proposal and the student's ability to perform the research. It includes a formal oral presentation of the student's dissertation proposal, research to date, and questions by the dissertation advisory committee on the dissertation topic. The Proposal Defense Examination is to be taken prior to the Comprehensive Examination. Satisfactory performance on the Comprehensive Examination. Ph.D. students must have a basic knowledge of Physical Geology in addition to a comprehensive knowledge of three fields of geosciences (see Department of Geoscience Graduate Student Guidelines for recommended fields for each Ph.D. Emphasis). The format and content of the exam will be determined by the student's doctoral advisory committee with approval of the department graduate coordinator. The Comprehensive Examination will be taken either the semester after all course work is completed or before the end of the fourth semester, whichever comes first. The Comprehensive Examination can be taken either entirely as an oral examination or with both oral and written components. The decision of which of these options to take is decided by

unanimous agreement by the student's doctoral advising committee. In the case of non-unanimous agreement, both the oral and written components will be given. Preparation of a dissertation proposal and satisfactory performance on a Proposal Defense Examination. This examination must be completed prior to the end of the fifth semester. The Proposal Defense Examination focuses on the dissertation proposal and the student's ability to perform the research. It includes a formal oral presentation of the student's dissertation proposal, research to date, and questions by the dissertation advisory committee on the dissertation topic. The Proposal Defense Examination is to be taken after the Comprehensive Examination. Students who fail to pass the Comprehensive Examination or Proposal Defense on the first attempt must successfully complete a second examination (as specified by the doctoral advisory committee) within the next six months to remain in the program. Students who entered the program with a baccalaureate degree and who fail the second examination may be allowed to continue as a Master of Science student with the consent of the doctoral advising committee. Students who entered the program with a master's degree who fail the examination a second time will be separated from the program. A student who has successfully passed both the Proposal Defense and Comprehensive Examinations will be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Satisfactory performance on a final examination will consist of the presentation and defense of the dissertation research. The defense will consist of an oral presentation open to the public, a short period of questions from the public, a closed session of questions from the doctoral advising committee, and a closed deliberation and vote by just the advisory committee members. Any graduate faculty member may attend the closed session of questions of the defense. Using Degree Audit as a guide, a degree program must be approved by the advisory committee prior to the beginning of the third semester of enrollment. It is recommended that the student be a teaching assistant or instructor for at least one semester. Students may request a maximum of 15 graduate credits taken at UNLV prior to admission be included in the graduate degree program, providing those credits were not used to fulfill undergraduate requirements and a grade of B (3.00) or higher was achieved.

Graduation Requirements

See Plan Graduation Requirements below.

Subplan 2 Requirements: Post-Master's

Total Credits Required: 36

Course Requirements

Required Course – Credits: 3

GEOL 701 Research Methods in Geoscience

3

Elective Courses – Credits: 21

Complete 21 credits of 600- or 700-level GEOL courses, or other advisor-approved courses.

Dissertation – Credits: 12

GEOL 799 Dissertation

3 – 6

Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 36 credits with a minimum GPA of 3.00. A minimum of 12 of the 36 credits required must be at the 700-level. Although more course work and dissertation credits may be taken, only 12 credits of Dissertation, and 24 course credits will be counted toward the degree program. Doctoral students are encouraged to take courses from outside of geoscience; however, a minimum of 15 credits must be geoscience (GEOL) courses. A maximum of three credits of Independent Study are permitted, except in special circumstances in which case permission from the doctoral advising committee, the department Graduate Coordinator and the department chair is required. Satisfactory progress toward meeting the degree requirements is required of all candidates. Satisfactory progress is defined as, at a minimum: Maintenance of 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. Selecting a dissertation advisor and committee. The advisor must be selected before the end of the

first semester and the committee before the end of the second semester. Scheduling of an interview with the advisor either during or before the first semester. If an advisor is not selected, a temporary advisor will be assigned by the graduate coordinator. The purpose of the interview is to develop a plan of course work for the first year. 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.

Scheduling of a diagnostic interview with the Advisory Committee before the end of the 2nd semester. The purpose of the interview is to develop a list of recommended courses and design the student's degree program, which must be submitted prior to completing 16 credits of course work toward the degree.

Satisfactory performance on the Comprehensive Examination. Ph.D. students must have a basic knowledge of Physical Geology in addition to a comprehensive knowledge of three fields of geosciences (see Department of Geoscience Graduate Student Guidelines for recommended fields for each Ph.D. Emphasis). The format and content of the exam will be determined by the student's doctoral advisory committee with approval of the department graduate coordinator. The Comprehensive Examination will be taken either the semester after all course work is completed or before the end of the fourth semester, whichever comes first. The Comprehensive Examination can be taken either entirely as an oral examination or with both oral and written components. The decision of which of these options to take is decided by unanimous agreement by the student's doctoral advising committee. In the case of non-unanimous agreement, both the oral and written components will be given. Preparation of a dissertation proposal and satisfactory performance on a Proposal Defense Examination. This examination must be completed prior to the end of the third semester. The Proposal Defense Examination focuses on the dissertation proposal and the student's ability to perform the research. It includes a formal oral presentation of the student's dissertation proposal, research to date, and questions by the dissertation advisory committee on the dissertation topic. The Proposal Defense Examination is to be taken after to the Comprehensive Examination. Students who fail to pass the Comprehensive Examination or Proposal Defense on the first attempt must successfully complete a second examination (as specified by the doctoral advisory committee) within the next six months to remain in the program. Students who entered the program with a baccalaureate degree and who fail the second examination may be allowed to continue as a Master of Science student with the consent of the doctoral advising committee. Students who entered the program with a master's degree who fail the examination a second time will be separated from the program. A student who has successfully passed both the Proposal Defense and Comprehensive Examinations will be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Satisfactory performance on a final examination will consist of the presentation and defense of the dissertation research. The defense will consist of an oral presentation open to the public, a short period of questions from the public, a closed session of questions from the doctoral advising committee, and a closed deliberation and vote by just the advisory committee members. Any graduate faculty member may attend the closed session of questions of the defense. Using Degree Audit as a guide, a degree program must be approved by the advisory committee prior to the beginning of the third semester of enrollment. It is recommended that the student be a teaching assistant or instructor for at least one semester. Students may request a maximum of 15 graduate credits taken at UNLV prior to admission be included in the graduate degree program, providing those credits were

not used to fulfill undergraduate requirements and a grade of B (3.00) or higher was achieved.

Graduation Requirements

See Plan Graduation Requirements below.

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 his/her degree requirements. The student must submit and successfully defend their dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public. After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation 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*

Fall 2021

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 August 31, 2020

proposal

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 10/7/2020

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

Aalog Processing Notes

Aalog Processing Date

Initials

Comments for Doctor of Philosophy - Geoscience

Curriculog

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

Emily Lin has approved this proposal on Graduate College Dean.

Curriculog

11/3/2020 2:57 pm [Reply](#)

Graduate Curriculum has approved this proposal on Graduate Programs Committee.

Curriculog

11/3/2020 2:26 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 8:46 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 3:04 pm [Reply](#)

Geoscience Graduate Coordinator has launched this proposal.

Curriculog

9/25/2020 2:20 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.