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GUIDELINES FOR GEOSCIENCE M.S. STUDENTS UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

GENERAL INFORMATION

This document delineates the policies and procedures under which graduate student's seeking an M.S. degree function within the Department of Geoscience. The Department recognizes that graduate study is much more than the meeting of mechanical deadlines, and the scholarly development of graduate students is of paramount concern to the faculty. Each student's growth is cultivated individually throughout the graduate experience as one attains the foundation, independence, intellectual curiosity, and self-discipline necessary to be a productive scientist. The awarding of the M.S. in Geoscience recognizes the achievement of these goals.

INTRODUCTION

The Graduate College sets forth policies and deadlines in the Graduate College Catalog, which govern all graduate students at UNLV. New graduate students will follow the 2009-2011 edition of the Graduate Catalog. With department **and** Graduate College approval, the Graduate Catalog in effect during the semester in which degree requirements are completed may be used. In addition, the Department of Geoscience has developed the following guidelines, which are in some cases more rigorous and rigid than those of the Graduate College. These guidelines were generated in order to establish a framework that will assure uniformly high standards throughout the Department and that will permit the best possible education for Geoscience M.S. students. Each student is obligated to be aware of both sets of policies and to review them periodically so that they are followed to the best of each student's ability. It should be understood that the policies of both the Graduate College and of the Department are somewhat flexible and written petitions for exceptions may be submitted for special cases in which extenuating circumstances occur. However, petitions for departures from the rules and guidelines must be approved in writing by the advisor, committee, Graduate Coordinator and Department of Geoscience Chair. If the petitions are granted, the policies may be modified, but students should not and can not rely on such a mechanism to circumvent the regulations. Questions regarding any of the policies can and should be addressed by the student's advisor, the Department Chair or the Department Graduate Coordinator. If the information provided by these sources within the Department is not satisfactory, M.S. students should make an appointment with either the Dean or Associate Dean of the Graduate College in order to have questions answered. Do not rely on hearsay information: see it in writing.

ADMISSIONS TO THE GEOSCIENCE M.S. PROGRAM

The establishment of standards of admission to graduate programs at UNLV is largely the responsibility of the Graduate College. Therefore, M.S. students should refer to the appropriate general section in the Graduate Catalog, but also be cognizant of the introductory section to Geoscience. When the Graduate College receives the credentials of an applicant, the Department will recommend that the applicant either be denied admission or admitted with one of the

following classifications: (1) graduate standing, (2) graduate provisional, (3) contingency admit or (4) non-degree student. For either of the first two classifications there may be deficiencies listed or graduate course work specified. Contingency admission is given when additional admission materials are needed. **It is the student's responsibility to comply with the terms of admission.** Questions should be addressed to the Department's Graduate Coordinator. Students must make their advisor aware of admission conditions.

Review of applicants for admission includes evaluation of previous grade point average (GPA), courses taken, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and students' statements of interests. The Department generally requires a grade point average of "B" or better for admission with graduate standing. Students with less than a "B" average may be admitted if supporting data (letters of recommendation, Graduate Record Examination, publications, etc.) are sufficiently strong. GRE scores should be average or better and letters of recommendation should be positive. Applicants must have completed a Bachelor's Degree in geoscience or a related discipline. The department offers Master's degrees in Geoscience with emphases in Geology, Geophysics, Soil Science, and Hydrogeology. The requirements for admission without deficiencies are listed in the Graduate Catalog. For the Geology emphasis, the Geoscience Department requires that, at minimum, the student has taken at least six of the following eight classes or their equivalent: GEOL 220/221 Mineralogy – Optical, GEOL 301 Fossil Record, GEOL 330 Geochemistry, GEOL 333 Geomorphology, GEOL 341 Structural Geology, GEOL 348 Field Geology I, GEOL 426 Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology, and GEOL 462 Stratigraphy and Sedimentology. In addition, a student must have taken an introductory geology class or they may be required to T.A. GEOL 101 after admission. Specific requirements for the Geophysics, Soil Science, and Hydrogeology emphases are listed in the Graduate Catalog. A student also must have taken at least 22 semester credits in supporting sciences, which include chemistry, computer programming, mathematics (calculus or a higher level), physics and statistics.

The admissions recommendation made by the Department to the Graduate College may be rejected if it is judged to conflict with Graduate College standards. Students with a field(s) of interest that is consistent with a field of research emphasized by a departmental faculty member will be considered for admission, if that discipline currently does not have enough participating graduate students to be considered filled.

In order for a currently admitted graduate student to change from one department to another department or program, the student must submit a new application for admission, the required application fee, and all necessary credentials to the Graduate College. Upon admission, the student must withdraw in writing from the original department.

ADMISSION CONTINGENCIES

Admission contingencies vary with each student and many students have none. The Department and Graduate College must receive all materials required at the time of matriculation no later than the end of the first semester. Progress toward completion of deficiencies noted at the time of matriculation should start in the first semester and be continuous until completed. Deficiencies must be completed as soon as possible.

