

Geoscience PhD Program

Simplified guidelines

Course requirements

A) Post-Bachelor's Track: Total credits required: 60

- Required: GEOL 701 – Research methods, 3 credits
- Dissertation credits: GEOL 799 – Dissertation: 12 credits (can register multiple semesters but only 12 credits will be counted to the degree requirement)
- Elective courses of 600-700 level: 45 credits
 - GEOL 789 – Dissertation Research: 1–6 credits but **only 2 credits** can be applied to program requirement (Prior to PhD candidacy).
 - GEOL 793 – Independent Study and Research: 1–3 credits but **only 3 credits** per instructor can be applied to graduate program (need to fill a form with signature from instructor and graduate coordinator/chair)
 - GEOL 794 – Directed readings: 1–3 credits, repeatable. A **maximum of 6 credits** can be applied to the program

B) Post-Master's Track: total credits required: 36

- Required: GEOL 701 – Research methods, 3 credits
- Dissertation credits: GEOL 799 – dissertation: 12 credits (can register multiple times but only 12 credits will be counted to the degree requirement)
- Elective courses of 600-700 level courses: 21 credits
 - GEOL 789, GEOL 793, GEOL 794: same as the Post-Bachelor's Track.
 - At least 12 of the 36 credits (excluding Dissertation) must be 700-level courses

For the description of Geoscience graduate classes, please check the following links:

<https://geoscience.unlv.edu/academics/courses/#graduate>

<https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=25&navoid=5413>

PhD progress time lines

1. Complete GEOL 701 in Fall semester of 1st year;
2. Formation of committee and diagnostic interview by end of the 2nd semester; File Appointment of Advisory Committee form;
3. Comprehensive exam after all course work completed or before end of 4th semester, whichever is sooner;
4. Completion of Proposal Defense before end of 5th semester, submit Prospectus forms and text to Grad College, advance to candidacy;
5. 5th year state-funded GA support will be evaluated by the graduate committee and will be only given to those with a publication record;
6. Students should not expect 6th year state-funded GA support.