

UNLV Geoscience PhD Program Simplified guidelines

Course requirements

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

- 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). After completion of qualifying exam. Can help completing 9 credits per semester.
- 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) prior advancement to candidacy.
 - *GEOL 793 – Independent Study and Research*: 1–3 credits, but only 3 credit per instructor can be applied to graduate program, including the student advisor (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 credits

- 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 timelines

Event	Timing	Required Documentation (See in Grad Rebel Gateway)
Select Advisor	First semester	N/A
Complete GEOL 701	Fall semester of 1 st year	N/A
Select Doctoral Advising Committee	Before the end of the 2 nd semester	Appointment of Advisory Committee Form
Diagnostic interview	Before the end of the 2 nd semester	Plan of Study form
Comprehensive Exam	Before the end of the 4 th semester	N/A
Proposal Defense Exam	Before the end of the 5 th semester	Advancement to Doctoral Candidacy Form
Apply for graduation	Beginning of the 4 th year	Apply for graduation in MyUNLV (Student Center

		under the “Other Academics” drop-down menu).
Dissertation Defense	After approval of full Advisory Committee. Ideally during 8 th semester	Culminating Experience Results
Annual Committee Meetings	Each year with full committee; scheduled by the student	Email documentation that resides with the advisor
IDP reports	Every year	Sent by graduate college
Semester progress report	Every semester	Sent by graduate coordinator

5th year state-funded GA support will be evaluated by the graduate committee and will be only given to those with a publication record. Students should not expect 6th year state-funded GA support.