

BOONE PICKENS SCHOOL OF GEOLOGY

Graduate Programs

Prerequisites

The student should have at least 30 credit hours in geosciences. Credit hours must include courses in physical geology, historical geology, rocks and minerals/mineralogy, sedimentology/stratigraphy, structural geology, field camp, or other courses relevant to the student's graduate research. Additional undergraduate requirements to enter the graduate programs include: two courses in chemistry/geochemistry, two courses in physics, and/or math courses through calculus II. Deficiencies in coursework must be made up by the student after entering the program. The Graduate Record Examination is recommended, but not required, for admission to the program.

The Master of Science Degree

The MS is awarded through the completion of a thesis. Each candidate must complete at least 30 semester credit hours of work beyond the prerequisites. As many as 12 of these may be taken in other departments of the University upon approval by the candidate's advisory committee. A final defense of the thesis and the research that it documents is required of all students.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The PhD is awarded upon completion of a doctoral dissertation. A minimum of 60 credit hours (coursework and research hours) beyond the MS or MA degree are required for the PhD. Under normal circumstances, students must hold a master's degree in geology or a related field to be accepted into the PhD program. However, under exceptional circumstances, students may be accepted directly into the PhD program without a master's degree. Such students will be required to complete a total of 90 semester credit hours (coursework and research hours) to earn their degree. Such decisions are made by the entire faculty of the School of Geology, upon recommendation of the Graduate Advisor. To be admitted to candidacy, students must pass a written and oral qualifying exam, and successfully defend their dissertation research proposal and pass an associated comprehensive exam. The PhD is conferred after the successful defense of the dissertation.

Accelerated Master of Science Degree

Our School is proud to offer an Accelerated MS option. Students who wish to pursue an Accelerated Master's should have completed 90 or more hours toward their BS by the end of their term of application, including GEOL 3014 and GEOL 3034, and should have a strong background with undergraduate research. Students who are admitted into the Accelerated Master's program will be eligible to share 9 credit hours between their BS and MS degrees.