

IMPORTANT DEGREE REQUIREMENTS, GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM

Some Important Deadlines and Milestones			
	Master's	PhD w/ Master's	PhD w/out Master's
3-Person Committee Meeting	1st semester	1st semester	1st semester
5-Person Committee Meeting	n/a	3rd semester	3rd semester
Comprehensive Exam	n/a	4th semester	5th semester
Defense Target	4th semester*	10th semester*	10th semester*
Defense Deadline (Grad School)	8th semester	12th semester	12th semester
*these are general guidelines only; confer with your advisor regarding their expectations			

Students are required to meet with their Advisory Committee at least **once per academic year**. Pay close attention to **paperwork deadlines** for Comprehensive Exam, Defense, and Graduation.

Advisory Committee Membership (for Comprehensive Exam and Defense)		
	Master's	PhD
Chair (cannot be advisor)	Regular GEOL faculty	Regular GEOL faculty
Main Advisor	Regular GEOL faculty	Regular GEOL faculty
Outside GEOL	n/a	Regular faculty at CU Boulder but outside of GEOL
Member	Regular or Special appointment from GEOL or elsewhere	Regular or Special appointment from GEOL or elsewhere
Member	n/a	Regular or Special appointment from GEOL or elsewhere
additional members may be added if desired		

Regular graduate faculty appointments may be given to full-time tenure/tenure track faculty members of CU Boulder who hold the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, or Research Professor. **Special** graduate faculty appointments may be given to those individuals who do not meet the criteria outlined for regular membership, such as CU Boulder Instructors, Lecturers, Scholars in Residence, Research Associates, and retired Professors; and those outside of the university with evidence of continuing scholarship, teaching, and/or professional competence.

Credit hour requirements, Master's: 30 total credit hours, of which 4 to 6 must be Master's Thesis (GEOL 6950). Up to 6 credits may be at the 3000-4000 undergraduate level, and up to 9 graduate-level credits may be transferred with approval. For students who switch to the Plan II (non-thesis) track, the 6950 requirement is replaced by 3 credits of Plan II Master's Research (GEOL 6960).

Credit hour requirements, PhD: 60 total credit hours, of which 30 must be Doctoral Dissertation (GEOL 8990). Undergraduate credits may be taken, but they do not count toward the total. Up to 10 graduate-level credits may be transferred with approval, and up to 21 by petition.

Additional per-term minimum enrollment requirements apply to Fall and Spring semesters, but not to Summer **unless the student defends during Summer**. Course grades **below C are not accepted** for the Master's program, course grades **below B-** are not accepted for the PhD program, and courses **taken pass/fail do not count** toward graduate degree requirements. Students must maintain at least a **B (3.00) grade point average** overall.

See <https://www.colorado.edu/geologicalsciences/academic/graduate/graduate-degree-requirements> for additional information.