



ConocoPhillips
SCHOOL OF
GEOLOGY &
GEOPHYSICS
The University of Oklahoma

Master of Science Degree Program in Geology

The objective of the Master of Science (M.S.) degree program at the University of Oklahoma is to prepare the student for a successful professional career in geology. The requirements for the achievement of this goal are a broad, sound background in geology/geophysics, a demonstrated ability to design and carry out a research project, and the ability to express the results of this work clearly and logically. The structure of the M.S. degree program has been designed to accomplish these goals.

The M.S. degree in geology requires at least 26 hours of course work (*not including deficiencies-assessed by the student's advisor and/or Thesis Committee*) and 4 hours of thesis research. At least 14 of the 26 hours must be in 5000- and 6000-level courses. To ensure breadth in the student's program, the course work must include at least one course from three (3) of the following six (6) core areas of study (*each faculty member determines which area his/her graduate course(s) satisfies*).

Core areas are as follows:

- Geochemistry
- Geophysics
- Igneous and metamorphic petrology
- Stratigraphy-biostratigraphy
- Sedimentary geology
- Structural geology-tectonics

To receive the M.S. degree, the student must take six (6) hours (carrying graduate credit) of science, mathematics, or engineering courses outside of geology and geophysics and approved by the student's Thesis Committee. A student may use previous course work over and above the full graduate-standing admission requirements to satisfy the outside science requirement *if* the courses would carry graduate credit at the University of Oklahoma and are applicable to the student's program of study. However, courses taken as an undergraduate will not contribute to the 30 hours required for the M.S. degree.

A proposal signed by the student's Thesis Committee and Graduate Liaison must be on file, preferably before undertaking thesis research. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Thesis Committee of his/her progress. The student is also responsible for fulfilling all Graduate College requirements for the M.S. degree.

Toward the later stage of the thesis research, before the student is allowed to defend his/her thesis, the student must publish one (1) article in a refereed journal. This article must meet the approval of the Graduate Affairs Committee. Also, each student must give a presentation concerning the results of his/her research in a colloquium open to students and faculty. The colloquium must take place during the regular fall or spring semesters. The student will also have a Defense of Thesis oral examination before graduation, supervised by the student's Thesis Committee. The colloquium may immediately precede the thesis defense. The defense shall be announced at least one week in advance. The Coordinator of Administrative Student Services, Donna Mullins, will be notified in a timely manner and supplied with the time, date, and thesis title so that a notice may be published one week before the colloquium/defense.