

Miami University Department of Geology Graduate Program

Applying for Graduate Admission

Graduate student applications are now being accepted. For an on-line application and information on general Graduate School requirements go to: <http://www.miami.muohio.edu/graduate>.

When applying for the graduate program, please send your application, official transcripts, official TOEFL scores (foreign students only) and your \$35 application fee, paid by check or money order (drawn on a U.S. Bank) payable to Miami University, directly to the Graduate School, Miami University, 102 Roudebush Hall, Oxford, OH 45056. All materials need to be received by February 1 in order to qualify for first round funding offers.

Please send three letters of recommendation, official GRE scores, resume, and your statement of purpose, via regular mail, directly to: Cathy Edwards, Department of Geology, Miami University, 114 Shideler Hall, Oxford, OH 45056. You may also send these documents via fax (1-513-529-1542) or email to edwardca@muohio.edu. Optional items that can be sent directly to the Geology Department to help speed up the application process are: copies of your application, transcripts and TOEFL scores (foreign students only). These materials also need to be received by February 1 in order to qualify for first round funding offers. Your statement of purpose should include information to answer the following questions: What is your area of interest? Are you applying for a Ph.D. or an M.S.? Have you identified one or more faculty that you specifically want to work with and who is it? What are your future goals after completion of the degree program? Your statement should be at least one page long.

Programs and Requirements

Miami's Department of Geology offers programs leading to the M.A., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Qualified students holding a bachelor's degree in geology or related sciences are invited to apply for admission to the graduate program. Deficiencies in background may be made up with the undergraduate credits earned after admission.

M.A. program

The M.A. program requires a minimum of 18 hours of graduate geology courses to be selected by the student in consultation with his or her committee. In addition, the student elects 12 hours of course work at the graduate level in related disciplines. An oral comprehensive examination is required.

M.S. program

The M.S. program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, six of which are earned by completing a thesis. There is no single prescribed curriculum for all graduate students. Course programs are developed by consultation between students and their graduate-study committees in line with the students' needs and interest. All M.S. degree candidates present an oral thesis proposal before the end of the second semester of residence. A final oral defense of thesis research is held after the thesis is completed. There is no language requirement for the M.S. degree.

Ph.D. program

The Ph.D. program requires a minimum of 60 credit hours beyond the master's degree of which at least 15 are earned through formal course work. English is required. Ph.D. students take written examinations in four sub-disciplines of Geology. Upon successful completion of the written examinations, the student undertakes a dissertation prospectus based on the students' proposed dissertation, arranged by the student in consultation with the graduate study committee as soon as possible after the written and oral exams are passed. A final oral presentation and defense of dissertation research is held after the student has completed the dissertation.

For detailed course descriptions, go to the Miami University Bulletin at: http://www.miami.muohio.edu/documents_and_policies/bulletin/.

Graduate support

Teaching associateships are available for students with a master's degree who are working toward the Ph.D. degree. The stipend for this award is \$15, 240. By registering for at least 12 hours of summer courses, the student also receives a service-free \$1,800 summer fellowship for support totaling \$17,040 per year.

Graduate assistantships are awarded each year to students working toward the master's degree. The stipend for these awards is \$12,877 which, with the additional service-free \$1,800 summer fellowship, totals \$14,677 per year.

The above assistantships also provide a full tuition waiver and a partial fee waiver along with the stipends.

Grant-in-aid awards provide remission of the instructional fee and out-of-state tuition for one or more semesters. Grants are awarded by the Graduate School on the basis of need and excellence of scholarship.

For more information on Geology Department requirements and graduate student support, contact Dr. Elisabeth Widom, 513-529-5048 or via email at widome@muohio.edu.