HOW TO APPLY TO GEO SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Thank you for your interest in our graduate programs. Below you will find a detailed description of our application procedure for the Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees.

STEP 1: Explore Faculty Research Interests

Finding an advisor is a critical piece of the graduate application process. A great starting point is our Geosciences faculty profile site: https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/department-directory/?department=Geosciences&type=Faculty. Determine which faculty members within our department have similar research interests to your own by clicking on their names and then selecting their personal websites or go to Faculty Disciplines: https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/geosciences/faculty-disciplines/. We suggest that you read their recent publications for further information about their research projects.

If you find faculty that seem to have common interests with you, contact them to see if they have an interest in accepting you as a student and if they will have funding available for the term you wish to start your program.

STEP 2: Order GRE Scores (all applicants) & TOEFL or IELTS Scores (*as applicable for international students whose countries are not exempted)

An official report of your GRE scores is required for all Geosciences Graduate Applicants. We only require scores for the GRE General test; it is not necessary to take the GRE subject test.

*An official report of TOEFL or IELTS scores is required for all international applicants from non-English speaking countries unless a degree from a U.S. institution has been awarded. CSU requires a minimum TOEFL score of 213 (computer based), 550 (paper based), or 80 (internet based) or an IELTS score of 6.5 or better for conditional admission.

Copies of score reports issued to you or another party are not accepted by the Graduate School for final admission but may be submitted to the Department for initial assessment.

The Educational Testing Service, ETS, administers both GRE and TOEFL exams. You may request that your scores be sent to CSU when you take your exam(s). The institution code is 4075 and the code for Geosciences is 0504 (if needed). ETS will send your scores to CSU electronically where they will be automatically matched up with your application in the University admissions database. They generally receive your results within a short time after your testing date.

If you did not initially request that your scores be sent to CSU, you can order additional reports by contacting ETS. Please see the ETS website (http://www.ets.org) for more information about ordering reports.

ETS only keeps GRE scores for five years; so in order to have an official report sent to CSU, your scores must be less than five years old. The CSU Graduate School will only accept TOEFL or IELTS scores taken within two years prior to admission.
**STEP 3: Collect Application Materials for SLATE Online Application Process**

*Note that required documents to be submitted by you or your reference providers are to be downloaded within the SLATE online system, the details for which are available at [http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/for-prospective-students/](http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/for-prospective-students/).

**DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Citizens and International Applicants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statement of Research Interest</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Include your long-term and educational goals, and how graduate studies will contribute to both. The essay is important for matching student and faculty research interests.</td>
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<td><strong>Three letters of recommendation sent directly to the graduate coordinator by:</strong></td>
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<td>- previous or current faculty/research instructors/ supervisors</td>
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<td>- previous or current relevant professional supervisors</td>
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<td>- observers other than supervisors who can verify the professional or intellectual expertise of the applicant</td>
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<td>One official copy of transcripts sent by <strong>every institution you have attended</strong> including institutions where coursework was brief and/or seemingly unrelated to the program(s) you wish to pursue in Geosciences. The only exception is coursework completed at Colorado State University; you do not need to send transcripts from Colorado State University. <strong>All transcripts not in English must include a certified translation into English.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Resumé outlining all relevant academic, research, and professional experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>An official report of your <strong>GRE scores</strong> (only the General Test is required) will be submitted to the CSU Graduate Admissions Office by the testing agency. Scores may be self-reported in the online application to serve for the Department’s initial assessment given any delay in submission by the testing agency.</td>
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<th>International Applicants Additional Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>An official report of TOEFL or IELTS scores (as indicated, above)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified proof of financial support, GS Form 3F</td>
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</tbody>
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**STEP 4: Apply Online & Pay Application Fee**

Please select [http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/for-prospective-students/apply-now/](http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/for-prospective-students/apply-now/) to fill out the online application. Applications to multiple programs at CSU require a $60 application fee for each.

In filling out the application, when asked to provide contact information for your references, note that it is your responsibility to contact potential reference providers with your request before submitting those contacts as part of your application. Also note that if your Statement of Interest is longer than allowed for the upload, please edit it down to fit system requirements.
**STEP 5: Follow Up**

Maintain contact with any faculty that expressed an interest in working with you, being mindful of their limited availability because of course loads and advising obligations. If they inform you that they are not accepting graduate students for the semester you wish to begin your program, ask them if they would advise you to delay your semester applied for to one in the further (you are eligible for one such change at no additional cost and would submit your request through your RAMweb page).

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do I need to send transcripts if I didn’t get a degree at the college, if the subject area was unrelated to the program I am applying for, if it was a very long time ago, or if it is a foreign university and difficult to get transcripts from?**
Yes! The Graduate School requires official transcripts from every institution you have attended, regardless of how long ago it was, how relevant the material studied is to your current interests, and whether or not you completed a degree at that institution. This includes domestic and foreign colleges and universities and community or technical colleges. The only exception is Colorado State University; we have access to transcripts for any classes you took here. We do not need copies of your high school transcripts.

**How do I get an assistantship?**
Whether or not you are offered an assistantship is dependent on availability of funding and your qualifications as they fit within the program. When a faculty member shows interest in accepting you as your advisor, confirm with them that funding will be available. Occasionally, they will base final acceptance pending final approval of such funding.

**How will I know when my application is complete?**
Your application for enrollment is considered complete when: (1) you have submitted your online application and (2) all remaining documentation has been received by the Graduate School. Your application may undergo preliminary assessment by the Department in the course of this process; however, an offer of enrollment or assistantship cannot be finalized until the application process is complete.

**My undergraduate degree is not in geology or geosciences. Can I still be considered for graduate studies in the Geosciences Department?**
Yes, some of our students do come from diverse backgrounds. It is up to faculty to determine if your course history or professional experience is sufficient for their research program. They may require you to take more prerequisite courses to compensate for any lack of academic preparedness regarding your program requirements.

**How can I check on the status of my application and what if I have further questions?**
You can check the status of your application on RamWeb (https://ramweb.colostate.edu/).

During the application process or after final acceptance: For any further administrative questions, contact the graduate program coordinator: (970) 491-7826 / patti.uman@colostate.edu.

Once accepted: For any academic questions regarding the specifics of your program, research, etc., please contact the faculty advisor who has selected you for enrollment.
Program details are available at https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/geosciences/graduate-study/graduate-program/. It is important that you review this information thoroughly before you submit your application to the CSU Graduate School. If you have already applied, check the following information to make sure you have understood the process and are aware of any new details you might have missed.

Application Deadlines:

The Fall Semester deadline for full consideration is the end of the first week of January, well before the Graduate School's suggested deadline. Applications may be submitted at a later date; however, graduate- assistantship support will be awarded beginning shortly after this deadline.

Spring Semester applications must be submitted by the Graduate School deadline of September 1. It is not the general practice for this department to enroll new grad students for spring semester but there are occasional exceptions. It is suggested that applicants contact faculty directly regarding placement availability prior to submitting a spring application. Spring applicants who meet eligibility requirements but are unable to find an advisor have the one-time option to change their term applied for to the following fall semester by submitting a request through their online application process at least two weeks prior to the start of the spring semester they have originally applied for.

Before You Apply:

Note that you will be asked to provide your specific area of research interest when you apply online.

Again, we strongly advise that you make direct contact with faculty before submitting your application for fall, as well as spring, to discuss their availability and funding opportunities.

In your Personal Statement (Statement of Research Interest), be sure to identify faculty you have either contacted or would like to work with as your advisor (you may list more than one, if applicable). Also describe your experiences/specific interests within your preferred research.

Make sure you have carefully gone over the Graduate School For Prospective Students page, available at http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/for-prospective-students/apply-now/

Now you are ready to select Application for Degree Program and be guided through the submittal process. Please be sure to provide all information requested to complete your online application.

Recommended for Competitive Applications:

- GPA of 3.3 or above
- GRE Rankings averaging in the 70th percentile
- Strong endorsements in three letters of recommendation, preferably from academic sources

Again, thank you for your interest. We look forward to reviewing your application.