

# HOW TO APPLY TO GEOSCIENCES 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 (GEOS-MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (GEOS-PHD) degrees. More information can be found at: <https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/geosciences/geosciences-graduate-student-resources/>

## STEP 1: Explore Faculty Research Interests

To be accepted into the program you need to have one of our faculty members agree to be your advisor. Departmental Faculty review all applicants, however, to increase your chances of acceptance, we advise all applicants to contact potential advisors prior to or during the application process. This is also critical if you are seeking funding such as a Graduate Teaching Assistantship or Research Assistantship.

Please see the links below for our faculty contact information and areas of interest. Descriptions and links to individual Google Scholar pages are included in the contact information. You can email the faculty directly, but we ask that you only contact those whose research interests match yours.

Contact Information:

<https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/department-directory/?department=Geosciences&type=Faculty>

Faculty Disciplines:

<https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/geosciences/faculty-disciplines/>

## STEP 2: Collect Application Materials for SLATE Online Application Process

With regards to Geosciences graduate program admissions, be aware of our deadline for competitive applications. Applications received by the deadline date get priority consideration. Applications after this date have reduced priority and are not eligible to receive funding such as teaching assistantships.

Deadline dates are posted at: <https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/geosciences/geosciences-graduate-student-resources/>

## DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

### 1. Three letters of recommendation.

Using the online system, applicants must provide contact information for three individuals who have agreed to write a letter of recommendation. These individuals will be contacted (via secure email) with instructions for submitting their letter. Please do not have your recommenders mail their letter directly to the department. Recommenders can include:

- A faculty member at a previous or current institution who is familiar with your academic work and potential for graduate-level research
- A previous or current relevant professional supervisor who can comment on your skills, professionalism, and workplace contributions
- Observers other than supervisors who can verify your experience, capabilities, and work ethic



## 2. Statement of Research Interest

The Statement of Purpose serves as an academic writing sample for the faculty to learn more about you and ascertain how your goals align with the program. Please consider addressing the following in your statement:

- Describe your research or professional interests and motivation for attending graduate school. What are your goals that motivate you to pursue an advanced degree in Geosciences?
- Describe how your academic background and other previous experiences have prepared you for graduate study in the Department of Geosciences.
- Provide an example(s) where you engaged in creative problem solving, collaborative work, leadership, and/or an instance where you persevered to overcome challenges.

## 3. Official or unofficial copy of transcripts for *every* institution you have attended.

This includes institutions where coursework was brief and/or seemingly unrelated to the program(s) you wish to pursue in Geosciences (e.g. community college classes). **Exception** – for coursework completed at Colorado State University, official transcripts are not necessary. **All transcripts not in English must include a certified translation into English.** CSU institution code is 4075

## 4. Curriculum Vitae.

A CV or resume outlining all relevant academic, research, and professional experience.

## 5. The GRE is not required

## 6. Writing Sample.

An *optional* writing sample can be uploaded with your application. Please consider submitting one supplemental writing sample. Examples of representative writing samples include a senior class project report, an undergraduate or graduate thesis, a research paper or poster, or other evidence of previous academic writing.

## 7. International Student Applicants – additional requirements:

1. English Proficiency: Please see <https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/english-proficiency/> for detailed information on requirements, tests, and minimum scores.
  - a. Please see the [list of exempt](#) countries to see if yours is exempt from this requirement.
  - b. The CSU Graduate Program does not accept Duolingo scores for graduate admissions. ***Copies of score reports issued directly 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.*** 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.
2. Fee waivers are only given if requested by the faculty member who agrees to be your advisor. Applications can be submitted without the fee for international students, however, it must be paid or waived before acceptance into the program.
3. Certified proof of financial support, GS Form 3F
4. Additional information for international students can be found at the [International Students and Scholars](#) page.



### STEP 3: Apply Online & Pay Application Fee

Please go to <https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/apply/#applying-online> to complete the online application. Applications to multiple programs at CSU require a \$60 application fee for each program. International applicant fees are \$70 per application. Fees are non-refundable.

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.

The Graduate School at Colorado State University supports fee waivers for applicants who can demonstrate participation in or affiliation with specific programs and/or partnerships. **Fee waivers are not granted based on financial hardship alone.** Visit the graduate admissions site [https://gradadmissions.colostate.edu/register/fee\\_waiver\\_request](https://gradadmissions.colostate.edu/register/fee_waiver_request) for more information and to apply.

### STEP 4: Follow Up

Maintain contact with any department faculty member(s) that you have corresponded with, 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 if you attended classes or graduated from Colorado State University as we have access to those transcripts. 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. We have a limited number of financial assistantships (GTA and GRA) available for new students. These are assigned by the department upon the recommendation of an advisor. For Departmental Teaching Assistantships, a faculty member or potential advisor must put your name forward and it is voted on by the entire faculty. It is key that you have a faculty member who is willing to be your advisor to be considered for a Teaching Assistantship. In addition, many of our faculty have Research Assistantship funding from grant resources. Research Assistantships are given at the discretion of the faculty members with such funding.

**Do you accept Spring applications?**

No, we do not accept Spring Semester applications except on the recommendation of a faculty advisor.

**How will I know when my application is complete?**

Your application for enrollment is considered complete when: (1) you have submitted your online application, (2) all remaining documentation has been received by the Graduate School, and (3) you have paid the application fee. Your application may undergo preliminary assessment by the Department during this process; however, an offer of enrollment or assistantship cannot be finalized until the application process is complete.

**Does the Department of Geosciences grant fee waivers?**

Fee waivers are only granted upon the request of a faculty member. Your application can be reviewed without paying the application fee however it must be paid or waived prior to acceptance. Please contact the graduate coordinator for more information.

**My undergraduate degree is not in geology or geosciences. Can I still be considered for graduate studies in the Geosciences Department?**

Yes, although an undergraduate degree in the earth sciences is recommended, we do accept students with other undergraduate degrees. Acceptance is at the discretion of the faculty member you wish to work with. They will 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](mailto: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.

**Additional Resources**

Geosciences Graduate Information:

<https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/geosciences/geosciences-graduate-student-resources/>

Graduate School Apply Start Page:

<http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/for-prospective-students/apply-now/>

International Student and Scholars Services:

<https://iss.colostate.edu>

Document Submission information:

<https://admissions.colostate.edu/submitting-documents/>

Graduate School Fee Waiver Request form:

[https://gradadmissions.colostate.edu/register/fee\\_waiver\\_request](https://gradadmissions.colostate.edu/register/fee_waiver_request)