Geological Sciences, MNS

With this program's tailored approach, you combine two or more areas of specialization and participate in projects that investigate the great unknowns of the Earth and our solar system. This degree is designed for students like you who wish to enhance their professional portfolio.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MNS Natural Science (Geological Sciences)
The School of Earth and Space Exploration participates in the program leading to the MNS in geological sciences. This transdisciplinary degree program is designed to meet the needs of professionals seeking a graduate-level degree. The program is especially suited for individuals who desire professional training rather than research training.

The program offers the opportunity for transdisciplinary graduate training in the natural sciences (i.e., biological sciences, mathematics and physical sciences) and cognate areas. Because it is flexible by design, the program also offers the opportunity for individualized professional graduate programs depending upon the backgrounds and goals of the students. The program must be transdisciplinary; students are expected to emphasize coursework in two or more areas of specialization.

At a Glance

- College/School: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and an applied project (SES 593)
Required Core (1 credit hour)
SES 502 Exploring SESE Research (1)

Other Requirements (19 credit hours)
SES 501 SESE Colloquium (1)
GLG or SES courses (18)

Electives or Research (4 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)
SES 593 Applied Project (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
Other requirement coursework includes SES 501 and 18 credit hours of GLG or SES graduate-level courses. Exceptions and substitutions may be allowed with approval of the academic unit.

The supervisory committee is chosen by the student in conjunction with the advisor. The composition of the supervisory committee must reflect the transdisciplinary nature of the program. The student develops a suitable applied project with the approval of the supervisory committee.

Students must submit a plan of study after conferring with the supervisory committee. While a minimum of 30 credit hours is required for the degree, more credit hours may be required by the supervisory committee, depending upon the background of the student and the nature of the proposed program.

In some cases, undergraduate courses may be required to remove deficiencies.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admissions application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. three letters of recommendation
5. proof of English proficiency
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

Application Deadlines

Fall expand
Spring expand

Career Opportunities
Professionals with expertise in geological sciences are in high demand across sectors and industries, including remote sensing, natural resource management, data science, environmental consulting, hazard and risk assessment, geophysics and planetary science. Skills in the measurement and analysis of data related to the physics, chemistry and structures of earthly and planetary systems are valuable to businesses and institutions relying on data-driven strategies to interact with the planet and explore beyond the Earth.

Career examples include:

- geologist
- high school teacher
- science communication expert
- science writer and science journalist

Contact Information
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Admission Deadlines