GEOLOGY - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

The department’s research areas are categorized into four broad research interest groups:

- economic resources / stratigraphic sciences / paleontology
- geodynamics / geophysics / geochemistry / mineral physics / petrology
- global change / surficial processes / quaternary science
- hydrogeosciences

It is highly recommended that students locate a faculty member whose research interests most closely match their own.

The Department of Geological Sciences participates in the interdepartmental PhD program in geophysics and hydrologic sciences.

Requirements

Admission & Prerequisites

All students applying for admission must take the Graduate Record Examination. Results of this examination are used both for determining admittance and for initial academic counseling. Each student acquires a primary advisor and an advisory committee that provides guidance throughout the degree program.

Entering students normally have completed at least 24 credit hours of basic courses in geological science and two semesters each of chemistry, physics and calculus. In some cases, exceptional undergraduate preparation in other fields of science, mathematics or engineering may substitute for part of the 24 hours in geological science.

Program Requirements

Candidates for the doctoral degree must complete at least 30 credit hours in course work numbered 5000 or above, of which at least 20 must be taken at CU Boulder. In addition to course work, candidates must take a total of at least 30 credit hours of doctoral dissertation (GEOL 8990), with not more than 10 of these taken in any one semester and not more than 10 dissertation credit hours taken before the semester during which the comprehensive examination is passed.

Students interested in graduate work in the geological sciences should carefully read the detailed information regarding admission, registration and degree requirements on the department’s Information for Prospective Graduate Students (http://www.colorado.edu/GeolSci/geologygraduatestudents.htm) webpage.