

Time Frame for Completion of the M.S. Degree in Two Years

Final deadlines imposed by the Graduate School are published on the Graduate School website prior to the beginning of each semester. DocuSign forms required by the Graduate School are available on myBama and/or from the DGS office staff. This table is provided as a guideline only.

1 st Semester	6-9 hrs. coursework	Select Thesis Topic; Organize Thesis Advisory Committee
2 nd Semester	6-9 hrs. coursework	Write and Defend Thesis Proposal, Plan thesis work
3 rd Semester	6-9 hrs. coursework and thesis research	Thesis research
4 th Semester	6-9 hrs. coursework and thesis research	Complete and defend thesis. The student must consult the Graduate School website for the deadline for completion of all degree requirements.
Each Semester		Meet with Thesis Advisory Committee
Each Semester		Update individual development plan (IDP)
April 30		Complete annual progress report

Task	Form Required	Target Date or Deadline
Advisor meeting to determine thesis topic and any course requirements	N	Before first day of classes
Complete Communicating Geology class	N	1 st fall semester
Transfer graduate credit (if applicable)	Y	1 st semester
Appoint thesis committee	Y	1 st semester
Distribute thesis proposal to committee	N	2 nd semester, at least 2 weeks prior to proposal defense
Prepare thesis proposal approval form	Y	Signed 1 week before proposal defense
Defend thesis proposal; file Master's Comprehensive Examination Form	Y	By end of 2 nd semester
File a PDF-formatted copy of the thesis proposal with the DGS	N	By end of 2 nd semester
Take GEO 535/536	N	3 rd and 4 th semesters (2 credit hours total)
Submit application for degree	Y	Before classes begin in the semester that the degree is to be completed (through myBama)
Distribute thesis to advisory committee	N	At least 1 month prior to thesis defense
Schedule defense with the thesis committee/department	Y	At least 1 month prior to thesis defense

Advisory committee approval for defense and display	Y	At least one week prior to thesis defense
Schedule room for thesis defense	N	At least one week prior to thesis defense
Put thesis on display in DGS office	N	At least one week prior to thesis defense
Thesis defense form	Y	Day of defense
Submit required samples, data and program archives to the Natural History Museum and Advisor	N	Prior to submitting thesis to Graduate School
Get committee acceptance form for electronic thesis signed	Y	Prior to submitting thesis to Graduate School
Submit PDF of thesis to the Graduate School	Y	After committee acceptance form is signed
Submit PDF of thesis to DGS and the advisory committee	N	Immediately after Graduate School approves thesis
Schedule exit interview with Department Chair	N	Before leaving UA

Summary of Course Requirements:

24 hours of 400-600 level courses

- 3 hours of GEO 502: Communicating Geology (1st fall semester)
 - 2 hours of GEO 535/536 (3rd and 4th semesters)
 - no more than 3 hours of GEO 598
 - no more than 6 hours from outside the Geological Sciences discipline
 - no more than 12 hours from outside the DGS (including transfer credit)
 - no more than 6 hours of 400-level courses may count (with prior approval by the Graduate School)
- 6 hours of GEO 599 (Thesis Research) only after successful defense of thesis proposal