

Selection of Graduate Students

This document outlines our recommendations for applicants who are interested in graduate student positions with the UA Department of Geological Sciences (DGS). We also recommend that applicants review the information provided by the [GeoGradApp](#).

1) Students should evaluate the research specialties of individual DGS faculty members and contact who they would like to work with prior to submitting an application to the UA Graduate School. They should share the following with the faculty member of interest and describe what types of research projects (or which particular research project advertised by the faculty) that they would like to pursue as part of their graduate studies. The more detailed they can be, the better.

- Previous research experience: type of experience, relevance to faculty member's research, depth of expertise
- Professional scientific publications as first author or co-author
- Published conference abstracts and scientific conference presentations
- Awards or other types of recognition

Based on the above, the faculty member will decide whether or not to meet with the student and/or to have a one-on-one conversation via telephone, Zoom, or Skype. Based on this interaction, as well as any previous information provided by the student, the faculty member then decides if they are interested in advising the student and if they want to advocate for the student to the entire DGS faculty. If they are interested, the faculty member will inform the student that they should submit an application. If the graduate application fee is a financial hardship, the student should share this information with the potential faculty mentor prior to the application deadline. The DGS may be able to cover this fee.

2) The entire DGS faculty will then review the student's application, examining the following documents:

- Statement of Purpose
- Recommendations from previous instructors, advisors, or supervisors
- Transcripts: courses completed and grades (particularly those classes relevant to the proposed research topic)
- Other noteworthy accomplishments: academic honors, awards, professional and community service

The DGS faculty will vote to admit a limited number of students suitable to the availability of positions within the department. Faculty members with awarded, external research funding may be able to support a graduate research assistant (GRA) for one or more semesters. Alternatively, the DGS has a limited number of graduate teaching assistantships (GTA) available each semester that may be used to financially support incoming students. We note, however, that current students are given priority for these positions. Accepted M.S. students are guaranteed 4 semesters of funding, while Ph.D. students are guaranteed 8 semesters of funding. The source of financial support may vary from semester to semester.

3) For fall admission, priority for new graduate students is generally given to applications received by January 15. Applicants will receive notification of their acceptance to the DGS program via email and must acknowledge their acceptance on or before April 15. For spring admission, priority for new graduate students is generally given to applications received by July 15. Applicants will receive notification of their acceptance to the DGS program via email and must acknowledge their acceptance on or before October 15.