

Application Materials for M.S. in Geology:

All application materials will need to be submitted via the Graduate School's online application system. In addition to the information needed and non-refundable fees required by the Graduate School that are submitted directly to the Graduate School (e.g., personal information, transcripts from all colleges/universities attended, etc.), all applicants to our M.S. program will also need to submit additional materials (see below) electronically as part of the application process.

**Other important information about applying to our graduate program:**

1. Applications are accepted year-round for US citizens and permanent residents, though those received by February 1 will be given preference for financial assistance and Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) consideration for fall enrollment.
2. Application deadlines for International students are the following dates:
 - **January 8** for fall (August) enrollment
 - **August 1** for spring (January) enrollment
 - **December 1** for summer (June) enrollment
 - All materials, including letters of recommendation, must be submitted by these dates.
3. All applicants who want to be considered for a Timothy R. Donoghue Graduate Scholarship (M.S. students are awarded a \$3000 scholarship in addition to our Department stipend; <https://www.k-state.edu/grad/financial-support/scholarships-fellowships-grants/donoghue/>) must have complete applications submitted by January 8.

Applications for Fall admissions, including Graduate Teaching Assistantship consideration, will be evaluated in February (after the Feb. 1 GTA deadline) and not generally sooner.

Note: Unfortunately, we do not offer any fee waivers. However, it is possible that individual faculty members may be able to pay the fees for prospective students – as an applicant, you should contact the faculty member(s) you are interested in working with about this, not the Department Head or Graduate Program Director.

Note: We have suspended GRE requirements permanently. As a replacement, we have developed ten questions that we require applicants to answer, to help us evaluate applications as thoroughly as possible. These are found below on pages 3 and 4.

Prospective candidates must meet the minimum admission requirements for the Graduate school (<http://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/application-process/admit.html>), this includes a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) = 3.0 (on a 4.0 point scale), or equivalent. For those students with a Geology/Earth Science background, candidates must hold a minimum GPA = 3.0 (4.0-point scale) in all Geology/Earth science coursework.

Please direct questions to: Dr. Joel Spencer,
joelspen@ksu.edu – Graduate Program Director

Continued on page 2...

All of the following are required in order for an application to be considered complete:

1. Statements of Interests and Objectives.

- Statements should briefly describe your interest in the program, previous experience, research interests and research experience (if any) and your long-term career goals. In addition, the statement can also mention one or more KSU faculty you have an interest in working with. This statement should be uploaded as part of the online application.
- We suggest contacting specific members of our faculty and looking at faculty research interests, before you start the application process.

2. Three Letters of Recommendation.

- A link will be e-mailed to the persons writing your letters directly from the online application; they submit the electronic letters directly to the graduate school via that link. As part of the online application process, you will need to provide their names, Position, Institution/Company, and e-mail contact information. These letters should be from people who are best able to judge the applicant's ability to perform graduate-level research in geology.

3. Application for Graduate Assistantship (optional, but highly recommended).

- If the applicant wants to apply for Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) or Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) funding, please click on the GTA assistantship type in the online assistantship application and also state in the fillable form that you wish to be considered for a GRA position. Provide, in the fillable form, the required information about your teaching/research experiences, as prompted.
- Also, if you wish to be considered for a GTA position, please upload a document (two pages maximum) that discusses your qualifications for consideration, including detailed information about your prior formal and/or informal teaching experiences. This should be included in addition to the brief information in the fillable form requests; attach this document to your Statement of Interests and Objectives and 10 GRE replacement questions (e.g., upload ALL as one file).

4. GRE Replacement Questions (see page 3).

- 5. For Applicants Whose Primary Language is Not English.** If English is not your native language, to demonstrate competence in the English language, an official report of scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System-academic exam (IELTS) or Pearson Test of English (PTE) must be sent to Kansas State University and reported on your Graduate School application. Please see here for more details and the required minimum scores: <https://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/application-process/international/index.html#English-Proficiency-Requirements>

Continued on page 3...

6. For International Student Applicants Only: Affidavit of Financial Support.

- Before an international application is sent to the Graduate School for final processing, the applicant must complete an Affidavit of Financial Support. This cannot be waived. Please see here: <https://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/application-process/international/>

AI use, such as Chat GPT, etc. can only be allowed to improve the readability and language of the application materials. If you use AI for these purposes, this must be acknowledged in a short statement – please insert this at the end of your Statement of Interests and Objectives. Applications found to have failed to disclose use of AI will be excluded from further consideration.

GRE replacement questions:

Please answer these questions, so we (KSU-Geology faculty) will be able to assess your application as thoroughly as possible. Just upload your answers (along with your Statements of Interests and Objectives as one file). Please be as clear as possible and include the questions directly above the answers. Please make sure that your answers do not exceed 1200 characters (without spaces).

As you are thinking about these questions and your possible answers, consider that not all of the experiences are necessarily relevant to what you will do as part of your graduate degree, since some research projects have a strong component in lab work, while others in computer modelling or fieldwork.

- (1) What area(s) of the geosciences most interest you and why?
- (2) Which faculty member(s) are you most interested in working with and have you contacted them to discuss your interests?
- (3) Please provide us with specific example(s) of how you have worked toward achieving a particular goal or position, and/or how you overcame a difficulty/limitation in your life.
- (4) Please provide us with specific example(s) of leadership, if you have been in a position to utilize leadership skills.
- (5) On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you assess your experience / skills in / interest in fieldwork? Please add details that will help us understand your background and experiences.
- (6) On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you assess your experience / skills in / interest in labwork? Please add details that will help us understand your background and experiences.

Continued on page 4...

- (7)** On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you assess your experience / skills in / interest in modelling? Please add details that will help us understand your background and experiences.
- (8)** Describe how you have collected, processed, and interpreted quantitative and/or qualitative data (if you have).
- (9)** Have you ever taught a class on your own (even if not a formal, K-12 or college-level course)? If so, explain your level of responsibility. What would you say are your strengths and weaknesses as a teacher?
- (10)** Have you assisted a faculty member in teaching a class? If so, explain your level of responsibility.