Doctor of Philosophy in Geosciences

Brief Description
The Ph.D. program in geosciences is offered to those students who have demonstrated strong aptitude for research and scholarly activity. Research can be conducted in any field of the geosciences in which ISU faculty have expertise. The student’s course of study will be determined in consultation with his or her advisor and doctoral committee. Continued enrollment in the program is contingent upon maintaining a 3.0 grade point average and making satisfactory progress toward the degree. In order to complete the research and prepare the dissertation, the program normally requires at least four years of full-time study beyond the master’s degree. In some cases, students without an appropriate M.S. degree but demonstrating an exceptional undergraduate academic record and aptitude for research may be directly admitted to the Ph.D. program.

Admission Requirements
All applicants must meet Idaho State University Graduate School admission requirements for doctoral programs. In addition, applicants must have attained a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in geosciences or a closely related field (environmental science, physics, engineering, chemistry, biology, etc.) and have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA in their previous degree(s) unless special circumstances are demonstrated.

A complete graduate application for classified status in the Idaho State University Geosciences Department Ph.D. program consists of:
1. GRE scores (a minimum of 50th percentile is required in both verbal and quantitative categories); Students for whom English is a second language who do not meet the minimum verbal GRE score must meet the Graduate School minimum TOEFL score.
2. An Idaho State University Graduate School application form, fee, and official copies of transcripts;
3. Three letters of recommendation; and
4. A statement outlining the student's motivation for graduate school and their longer term career goals.

General and Course Requirements
The doctoral degree requires completion of at least 84 graduate credits. Of these, at least 32 credits must be doctoral dissertation credits (GEOL 8850 (http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=GEOL%208850)) and another 35 credits must come from coursework at the graduate level, two to four of which must be a graduate seminar. Of the total 84 credits, at least 40 must be taken from the ISU Department of Geosciences. Pre-Thesis credits (GEOL 6649 (http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=GEOL%206649)) are not included in the credits counted toward the degree. Students entering the program with a master’s degree may receive credit for up to 30 credits toward the doctorate, split between dissertation and coursework as appropriate, subject to the department chair’s approval. Classes and seminars may be taken at, or in collaboration with, Boise State University and/or the University of Idaho. Students may be required to complete any missing course material that is required for the B.S. degree in geosciences at Idaho State University.

Program of Study
An initial Doctoral Committee of at least three, composed of the candidate's major professor (committee chair) and two graduate faculty will guide each student in establishing his or her program of study based upon the student’s background and research interests. The majority of any committee must consist of graduate faculty from the ISU Department of Geosciences. It is the responsibility of the initial Doctoral Committee chair to arrange the first meeting.

Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering and Applied Science
A doctoral program in Engineering and Applied Science, administered through the College of Science and Engineering, is available to geoscience students. The complete program description is provided in the Engineering and Applied Science (http://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate/scienceengineering/ engineeringandappliedscience/) section of the Graduate Catalog.