

M.S. Earth Science Graduate Program

UNC Charlotte

Admissions Requirements: All prospective students must satisfy the general admissions requirements set forth by the Graduate School and UNC Charlotte. These requirements can be found at the following website (<http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/future-students/admissions>). All prospective graduate students must also demonstrate competence in undergraduate subject matter relevant to their area of study. While the department does not require that applicants have a degree in Earth Science, prospective graduate students should provide evidence that they are prepared to immediately take full advantage of graduate-level coursework in the Earth Sciences. Thus, students applying to the program should, at a minimum, be familiar with the concepts and materials offered in courses such as: Physical Geography, Physical Geology, Earth History, Introductory Meteorology and Climatology, Introductory Chemistry, Introductory Physics, and calculus-based Mathematics. These courses, or their equivalents, are required for admission to the UNC Charlotte M.S. in Earth Sciences Program. Furthermore, in an effort to maintain the highest academic standards, the applicants must demonstrate evidence of suitability and potential for success in the program through the following:

- Grade Point Average (GPA): The Department expects an overall equivalent GPA of at least 2.75 (and at least 3.0 for the junior and senior years). However, exceptions may be made if the other elements of the application are strong.
- Transcripts of College Coursework: The transcripts are evaluated on the basis of performance in the relevant range of earth sciences, physical sciences, and mathematics courses in order to determine the applicant's preparation for graduate level coursework in the program.
- Letters of Recommendation: Three letters of reference are required. Letters from college or university teachers who have worked with and/or taught applicants are preferred. These letters are evaluated on the basis of how well the applicant is suited in terms of intellect, preparation, maturity, and motivation to perform graduate work.
- Personal Essays: Applicants must write a personal essay which directly addresses reasons for the desire to conduct graduate work in Earth Sciences as well as the desire to participate in the M.S. program at UNC Charlotte. Applicants should comment on their expectations regarding the benefits of an M.S. in Earth Sciences. Lastly, applicants should address directly how the program at UNC Charlotte fits their career and/or professional goals, and how they would benefit from and contribute to the M.S. in Earth Sciences at UNC Charlotte. The essay is very important in determining the applicant's commitment to graduate education and to a professional career in earth sciences or a related field. Careful preparation of the essay is time well spent.
- Scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE): In general the Department expects minimum combined scores of 300 on the verbal and quantitative reasoning portions (equivalent to a minimum combined score of 1000 if taken before 2011) and a

minimum score of 3.0 on the analytical writing portion of the Graduate Record Exam. Only scores on the General GRE are required (i.e., no GRE Subject Test scores are needed). Lower scores will not automatically exclude applicants if the remainder of the applicant's file is strong.

- *Scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Exam:* International applicants whose native language is not English must earn a total score of at least 83 (internet-based) or 557 (paper-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language Exam. This requirement does not apply to U.S. citizens or native English speakers.

All applications for admission are reviewed by the Earth Sciences Graduate Committee, and the Department admits applicants on a competitive basis as space in the program allows. It is the policy of the Department to provide equal opportunities to all students regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.