

Marine Geosciences (MGS)

Program Graduate Student Handbook 2026-27

(Last updated September 2026)

A. Introduction

The Marine Geosciences (MGS) Program Student Handbook (this document) outlines the procedures and requirements applicable to all students in the Department of Marine Geosciences. It serves as a supplement to the University of Miami (UM) Graduate School and the Rosenstiel School Student Handbooks.

UM Graduate Student Handbook:

https://grad.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/2024-2025-graduate-student-handbook-final.pdf

Rosenstiel School Graduate Student Handbook:

https://www.graduate.rsmas.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/handbooks/rosenstiel-school-student-handbook-2022-2023.pdf

General University requirements and procedures are given in the UM and the Rosenstiel School Graduate Student Handbooks. However, some program requirements and procedures may exceed those in the above handbooks. A summary of the MGS program requirements is listed below.

B. Student Responsibility

The Department of Marine Geosciences, its courses, and degree programs operate on an honor system. The faculty expects a high sense of academic integrity and commitment to be maintained at all times. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of all the regulations and procedures as outlined in this Handbook. Any questions or clarifications should be addressed to the MGS Program Director.

C. Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements may change slightly from year to year as documented in the Graduate Student Handbooks. For this reason, the applicable requirements for a given student will be those in effect during the academic year in which they first registered as a full-time, degree-seeking graduate student in the Department.

D. Department Enrollment

The GRE is not required for departmental enrollment. In accordance with Rosenstiel School requirements, international applicants whose native language is not English must submit official English language testing results from either TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo. An exception to this rule is an international student who will have earned a degree in the US or select other English-speaking countries (click [here](#) for details) prior to enrollment at the Rosenstiel School.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores can be submitted using institution code **2919**. There is no department code for score submission. A minimum score of 550 (paper-based test), 213 (computer-based test), 80 (iBT) is required for admission. For

TOEFL iBT exams taken on or after January 21, 2026, a minimum overall score of 4.5 is required.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) using institution code **4862**.

There is no department code for score submission. A minimum score of 6.5 for the IELTS is required for admission.

Duolingo English Test (DET) select “**University of Miami - Graduate School**” from the Duolingo English Test’s institutional list. A minimum score of **125** is required for admission.

However, a strong academic background is also important in the admission decision, and results from other internationally recognized examinations, such as IELTS, are also considered.

A. Degree Requirements

All milestone forms are available through the **Graduate Studies Office (GSO) website:** <https://www.graduate.rsmas.miami.edu/students/forms-guidelines-and-handbooks/index.html>

Doctor of Philosophy (60 credits)

The expected time to completion for a Ph.D. is 5 years. Under the current Rosenstiel School Graduate financial model, the student may be held responsible for tuition, stipend, and any fees beyond 5 years. A student in residence in the program beyond 8 years requires approval by the MGS Program Director and the Rosenstiel School Graduate Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

- a. **Minimum Credit Requirements:** A total of 60 credits beyond the baccalaureate degree is the minimum UM requirement for Ph.D. students. The MGS program requires a total of 30 credits in approved courses (may include the 24 course credits earned toward the M.S. degree at the University of Miami or at an approved outside institution). A minimum of 12 research credits (MGS 830) is required.
- b. **Comprehensive Examination:** Examination must be passed (see Section H).
- c. **Dissertation Proposal:** The proposal should contain the following information,
 - Tentative title
 - Statement of the problem and objectives of the proposed study
 - Method of attacking the problem, including any equipment and facilities required
 - Timetable

Each member must approve the student’s dissertation proposal. A Proposal Approval Form, available in the Graduate Studies Office, must accompany the proposal and be signed by the members of the student’s committee and the MGS Program Director.

- d. **Qualifying Examination:** Before the Qualifying Examination, the student’s committee must approve a dissertation proposal. See Section H of this document on Qualifying Examinations.

A form, available in the Graduate Studies Office, notifying GSO of the outcome of the Qualifying Exam, must be signed by the members of the student's dissertation committee and the MGS Program Director.

- e. Admission to Candidacy: Before being admitted to candidacy, the student must:
- Successfully pass the comprehensive exam
 - Have an approved committee on file in the Graduate Studies Office
 - Submit and successfully defend an approved dissertation proposal
 - Pass the qualifying exam
 - Have a 3.0 average or above in all credits attempted as a UM graduate student, with no single grade below "C."
 - Fulfill MGS course credit requirements
 - Remove all deficiencies

A form for Admission to Candidacy, available from the Rosenstiel School Graduate Studies Office, should be signed by members of the student's dissertation committee and the MGS Program Director and be returned to the Rosenstiel School Graduate Studies Office at least one semester before the expected semester of graduation.

- f. Dissertation Defense: An Announcement of Defense form, signed by all committee members and the MGS Program Director, must be turned in to the Graduate Studies Office at least 14 days before the defense date, notifying the time and place of the defense and the title of the dissertation. The student is responsible for obtaining signatures from all committee members and the Program Director. The student must provide the committee with a complete version of the dissertation 28 days before the desired defense date.

The committee chairperson should notify the Graduate Studies Office in writing of the outcome of the defense using the Defense Memorandum and Assessment forms.

- g. Dissertation Submission: Instructions regarding proper forms can be obtained from the Rosenstiel School Graduate Studies Office or the Graduate School. A Certificate of Approval signed by each member of the student's committee, available from the Graduate Studies Office, must accompany each dissertation before it goes to the Graduate School.
- h. Publications: MGS Ph.D. students are strongly encouraged to submit their research findings to scientific literature. The recommended guideline is to submit three papers, as the primary author, to peer-reviewed journals before the defense.

Master of Science (30 credits)

The expected time to completion for an M.S. is 2 years.

- a. Minimum Credit Requirements: 24 course credits and 6 research credits (MGS 810).
- b. Comprehensive Examination: Examination must be passed (see section H).
- c. Thesis Proposal: The proposal should contain the following information:

- Tentative title
- Statement of the problem and objective of the proposed study
- Methods of attacking the problem, including any equipment or facilities required

Each member must approve the student's thesis committee's proposal. A Proposal Approval Form, available in the Graduate Studies Office, must accompany the proposal and be signed by the members of the student's committee and the MGS Program Director.

- d. Before defense, a student must:
 - Successfully pass the comprehensive exam (see section H)
 - Have an approved committee on file in the Graduate Studies Office
 - Submit and successfully defend the thesis proposal
 - Have a 3.0 GPA or above in all work undertaken as a UM graduate student, with no single grade below "C."
 - Fulfill MGS course credit requirements
 - Remove all deficiencies

- e. Thesis Defense: An Announcement of Defense form, signed by all committee members and the MGS Program Director, must be turned in to the Graduate Studies Office by the student at least 14 days before the defense date, notifying the time and place of the defense and the title of the thesis. The student is responsible for obtaining signatures from all committee members and the Program Director. The student must provide the committee with a complete version of the thesis 28 days before the desired defense date.

The committee chairperson should notify the Graduate Studies Office in writing of the outcome of the defense using the Defense Memorandum and Assessment forms.

- f. Submission of Thesis: Instructions regarding proper forms can be obtained from the Rosenstiel School Graduate Studies Office or from the Graduate School. When the thesis is submitted, the Rosenstiel School Graduate Studies Office should be notified, with a copy of the Certificate of Approval signed by each member of the student's committee, before the thesis is sent to the Graduate School.

- g. With the approval of the student's thesis committee, a journal publication may be submitted instead of a thesis. The following regulations apply:
 - The publication must be the work of the student (sole author) and not a joint effort with another person or persons.
 - The work on which the publication is based must be a part of the student's graduate program for which appropriate graduate credit was granted.
 - Papers must be formatted according to UM guidelines for an M.S. thesis.
 - The student must have a thesis committee that shall be appointed in accordance with, and function as prescribed in the Graduate Bulletin regulations for Master's theses.

B. Course Requirements

In addition to fulfilling the general requirements, all MGS students must complete any two courses in the MGS 610 Series, including MGS 611 (Earth Surface Processes), 613 (Introduction to Geochemistry), and 614 (Geophysics). MGS 771 (Diagenesis of Carbonate Sediments) may substitute for MGS 613. MGS 682 (Introduction to Seismology), 635 (Geological Hazards), or 723 (Geodynamics) may substitute Geophysics (614). These requirements may be waived by permission of the MGS Graduate Program Academic Committee.

These course requirements intend to ensure preparation across the range of subfields within MGS. If a student does not follow these requirements and performs poorly in one of the relevant subfields on the comprehensive exam, it may trigger a requirement to enroll in the respective course as a condition for further advancement in the MGS program.

All MGS students are required to register for MGS 701 (Seminar in MGS) at least once and attend all meetings of the course throughout their tenure in the MGS program. PhD students are required to give three presentations during their degree, and MSc students are required to give 1 presentation. All students must actively participate in the course each semester. Attendance will be recorded at these departmental events. In addition to confirming program requirements, attendance may form part of the criteria for end of year MGS student awards.

C. Advisors

Faculty Advisor

Upon admission to MGS, a faculty advisor is assigned by the MGS Program Director, in consultation with MGS faculty whose research areas overlap with the students'. In most cases, during the application process, the prospective student has already contacted a specific faculty member with whom they are interested in working. The function of this advisor is to assist with academic progress in the initial stages of enrollment at the Rosenstiel School, especially the first two semesters when most courses are taken. Students are encouraged to talk with the Faculty Advisor about class scheduling, course load, elective classes in their area of interest, research, and any other academic problems that may arise. The Faculty Advisor should, as soon as possible, discuss with the student areas of research interest and the selection of a Committee Chairperson.

Committee Chairperson

During the first two semesters, the student must begin familiarizing themselves with the research being conducted and the upcoming projects by various faculty members. As soon as the student has settled on an area of research interest, they should, in concert with their Faculty Advisor, determine which faculty member is the logical choice to serve as Chairperson of the thesis/dissertation committee. Although the Committee Chair does not have to be the current Faculty Advisor, most students have talked with a faculty member before enrollment, and often have the same Faculty Advisor and Committee Chairperson.

Thesis/Dissertation Committee

a. M.S. Thesis Committee

The student and the Committee Chairperson should consult to nominate at least two additional members willing to serve on the committee. The thesis committee will consist of at least three members. The Committee Chairperson must be a Regular Faculty member of the MGS Department (Appendix A). A co-chairperson must be a member of the Regular Faculty of the MGS Department or an adjunct faculty member of the MGS Department. In addition to the Chairperson, one of the remaining members must be Regular Faculty or hold Graduate Faculty status in the MGS Department; the third member must come from outside the MGS Department, that is, from another program or institution. The MGS Program Director must approve the thesis committee.

Once the Committee is formed, the Appointment to Students' Committee form should be completed, signed by all committee members and the Program Director, and forwarded to the Graduate Studies Office.

b. Ph.D. Dissertation Committee

The Dissertation Committee members should be chosen as early as possible after deciding on a research topic, to facilitate and contribute to the research project. The student and the Committee Chairperson should consult to nominate at least three additional members willing to serve on the Dissertation Committee. The Committee Chairperson shall be a regular member of the Graduate Faculty of the MGS Department (Appendix A). Of the remaining members, it is also required that two shall be from the Graduate Faculty of the MGS Department, and one member from outside of MGS (from another program or institution) who must have a Ph.D. degree (Adjunct and secondary appointments are both still considered outside, as long as their primary affiliation is not MGS). The MGS Program Director must approve the Dissertation Committee.

Once the Committee is formed, the Appointment to Students' Committee form should be completed, signed by all committee members and the Program Director, and forwarded to the Graduate Studies Office.

c. Committee Membership Changes

The Committee Chairperson must approve proposed changes in the membership of existing committees and must carry the endorsement of the MGS Academic Committee before being forwarded to the Graduate Studies Office.

d. Committee Meeting

The thesis/dissertation committee should meet once every semester to review the student's progress and discuss new data/results/interpretations. The Committee Chairperson should send a brief memorandum on the student's progress to the Graduate Studies Office.

Program Academic Committee

The MGS Program Academic Committee, chaired by the Program Director, implements the Program's requirements and procedures regarding academic affairs; reviews, monitors, and recommends changes in the program and its requirements; and reviews petitions for exceptions to program policy.

D. Examinations

Comprehensive Examination

All students enrolled in the MGS academic program are required to take a comprehensive examination by the end of their third semester of graduate studies at the Rosenstiel School. If a student transfers into the MGS Program from another discipline within UM, then they must complete the comprehensive examination.

Students who enroll in the program in the Fall semester are required to take the exam by the end of the same academic year, typically after the mid-late May. Students who join in the Spring semester (January) are expected to take the exam before the beginning of the following Spring semester, typically in mid-late January. A one-semester extension may be granted to students who need additional courses to prepare for the examination or face unexpected hinderances in their progress during the first year of enrollment. In these individual cases, the student must request an extension in writing to their advisor, preferably during the first semester of enrollment, and the program director may grant the extension in consultation with the student advisor.

The comprehensive exam is arranged by the academic program director, who will assemble a committee comprised of full-time faculty, and will designate the Exam Committee Chairperson. The committee does not usually include the faculty advisor for each student or the program director. However, the faculty advisor/program director may be included to ensure an appropriate academic balance in the committee.

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to evaluate the student's understanding of fundamental principles and reasoning skills and to determine if any basic deficiencies are present in the student's background after two to three semesters of classes. The comprehensive exams consist of five blocks, each devoted to a distinct geoscience. The students choose to answer questions in four topics: two in the morning and two in the afternoon. The topics are:

- 1) Geophysics and Earth Structure
- 2) Plate Tectonics and Basin Formation
- 3) Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology
- 4) Sedimentology and Stratigraphy
- 5) Geochemistry and Petrology

The exam consists of a written part, which usually lasts about 6-8 hours, and an oral part, which lasts about 1 hour. The results of the written portion of the exam and the performance

in the oral exam determine the grade assigned by the examining board in accordance with the rubric below.

For the M.S. degree candidate, possible grades include PASS or FAIL. A grade of PASS indicates an acceptable understanding of the basic principles and allows the student to complete the M.S. degree. Upon completion of the M.S. degree at UM, the student may apply to the Ph.D. program and is not required to retake the comprehensive examination unless more than 4 years have elapsed since the M.S. degree was completed. A grade of FAIL indicates gaps in understanding or knowledge of basic geological, geochemical, or geophysical principles. The student may retake the exam to achieve a passing grade. If failure occurs on the second attempt, the student can be dismissed from the MGS program.

For a Ph.D. student, a grade of either PASS or FAIL is given. A PASS indicates that the student may proceed with additional coursework, research proposal development, and preparation to take the qualifying examination. Failure of the exam will require the student to retake the exam at a time to be determined by the Exam Committee and the MGS Academic Committee. This retake is usually scheduled no later than the end of the following semester. If failure occurs on the second attempt, the student can be dismissed from the MGS program.

PhD and MS students who score 3 points or lower in written/oral scientific presentation and communication will be required to enroll at the University of Miami Writing Center immediately and report their progress periodically to the MGS graduate program director.

In addition, students who receive a score of 3 points or lower in any of the evaluation areas are required to coordinate with the MGS program director to enroll in a minimum of two online course modules, each lasting 1-3 months, designed to help them strengthen:

- Knowledge of discipline
- Appropriate problem-solving and methodology
- Critical Thinking
- Effective written scientific communication
- Effective oral scientific communication

These course modules must be completed before the qualifying exam for PhD and the thesis/proposal defense for MS students.

1. If a PhD student's performance is scored at 3 points or lower in any of the criteria listed above during the qualifying exam again, the student will be required to complete additional online course modules before being re-evaluated during their PhD thesis defense.
2. The same rubric/metrics are used to evaluate student progress after completion of the assignments from the University of Miami Writing Center and the online course modules.

Thesis/Dissertation Proposal

A thesis/dissertation proposal should be prepared by the student under the supervision of the Committee Chairperson and submitted to the full thesis/dissertation committee. The student is expected to discuss the proposed research with committee members during the proposal's

developmental stages. For the M.S. degree, the proposal should be submitted to the student's committee members by the start of the fourth semester and must be approved by the student's committee and the MGS Program Director. For the Ph.D., the proposal should be submitted to the student's committee by the end of the third year and at least two weeks before the qualifying examination. Also, it must be approved by the student's committee and the MGS Program Director.

Qualifying Examination (Ph.D.)

The Qualifying Examination should be taken by the end of the third year. A completed dissertation proposal demonstrating the ability to formulate and test a hypothesis must be submitted at least two weeks before the exam. The scheduling of the exam should be discussed with the Committee Chairperson and Dissertation Committee. The purpose of the exam is to determine knowledge of (a) general principles of geology, geochemistry, and geophysics, (b) knowledge of the student's individual specialty, and (c) peripheral and supporting disciplines.

The Dissertation Committee administers a written examination on the subjects outlined above. An oral examination may follow the written exam if necessary to clarify answers, as judged by the Dissertation Committee. The written exam can consist of either take-home, open-book questions on broad areas of interest related to the dissertation topic, or a closed-book written examination completed the same day. Written questions are submitted by the Dissertation Committee and are selected by the Committee Chairperson.

Unless specifically designated as an open-book examination, the qualifying examination is closed-book. Students taking the closed-book examination are expected to remain in the examination room for the duration of the exam. Permission to leave the room should be requested from the test proctor or from the student's advisor. No student is to leave the test room, building, or campus at any time during the examination period.

Upon satisfactory completion of the qualifying exam, the student enters into candidacy for the Ph.D., provided all other requirements have been met. If the qualifying exam is failed, the student may, at the discretion of the Dissertation Committee, be allowed one opportunity to be re-examined, but in this case, no later than the end of the following semester. No "partial passes" of the qualifying exam are allowed.

Annual Student Review

The MGS Academic Committee reviews each student's progress during the Fall semester. These reviews will be to check on fulfillment of the UM Graduate School, the Rosenstiel School, and the MGS Program requirements, and to ensure the student is making adequate research progress on a thesis or dissertation project. The Academic Committee review specifically checks course and research credit hours, the formation of the thesis/dissertation committee, the submittal of the thesis/dissertation proposal, and the submission of all forms required for admission to candidacy.

E. Timetable of Degree Programs

The timetable below outlines the usual degree schedule for MGS students, as described in previous sections. Deviations from this timetable must be approved on an individual basis by the student's Faculty Advisor/Committee Chairperson and the MGS Academic Committee. If a student fails to meet the required exam deadline, they may be asked to leave the program or change their degree objective.

REQUIREMENT	M.S. DEGREE	PH.D. DEGREE
Faculty Advisor	Upon Admission	Upon Admission
Comprehensive Exam	End of 3 rd Semester	End of 3 rd Semester
Thesis/Dissertation Committee	End of 3 rd Semester	End of 2 nd Year
Thesis/ Dissertation Proposal	Start of 4 th Semester	End of 3 rd Year
Qualifying Exam	N/A	End of 3 rd Year
Retake of the Comprehensive exam	End of 4 th Semester	End of 4 th Semester
Retake of Qualifying Exam	N/A	End of 1 st Semester in 4 th Year

F. Language Requirements

The MGS Program does not require a foreign language for either the M.S. or Ph.D. degree.

G. Health Insurance

All full-time graduate students and all other students who have paid the Student Health Center Fee are eligible for care at the Student Health Center. Many services are provided at no charge. All medical records are confidential, are not part of the University's records, and will not be released without the patient's permission or a court order.

H. Funding Options

There are various types of student funding available within the MGS program. These usually include research assistantships, teaching assistantships, scholarships (external or internal), and private sources (self-funded).

Research Assistantship

A Research Assistant (RA), supported by a student advisor's grant, is required to work a minimum of 20 hours per week on material designated by the student's advisor. Students are required (i) to be in residence and (ii) to inform their advisor within a reasonable time period of planned absences. Failure to meet these requirements can result in dismissal from the program. If a student is in non-compliance with the conditions of the RA, then the advisor will inform the student in writing.

Teaching Assistantship

All Rosenstiel School Ph.D. students are expected to serve as Teaching Assistants (TAs) for two courses while pursuing their degrees. A training session and two teaching opportunities are offered as courses in educational training (RSM 771, RSM 772, and RSM 773). The mandatory TA program will include training of new TAs, evaluation of their performance, and recognition of excellence. The goal is to make the experience as valuable as possible for the TA, the faculty, and the students taking our courses. Please refer to the Rosenstiel School Student Handbook for specific TA requirements.

Scholarships

There are various types of scholarships available from the University of Miami or external sources (NSF, NASA, NOAA, etc.) The requirements for these scholarships are like those for research assistantships. Students are required (i) to be in residence and (ii) to inform their advisor within a reasonable time of planned absences. For external scholarships, students must meet the requirements outlined by the funding agency.

Self-funded Status

Students without University or other funding are required to fulfill basic requirements outlined in Section I. Failure to comply may result in the student's dismissal from the program.

Other Important Information

Full-Time Status

A student is considered full-time if registered for at least 9 course credits or at least one research credit (MGS 810 and 830).

Registration

Registration is required of all MGS graduate students during the regular two semesters unless a leave of absence has been requested and approved.

It is important that all students receiving a fellowship or being paid as research or teaching assistants be registered as full-time students (9+ course credits or 1 research credit). All students (excluding self-funded students) must register for at least 12 credits per year. Spring (4 credits), Summer I (2 credits), Summer II (2 credits), Fall (4 credits).

Should a student fail to register and not be on approved leave, they will be dropped from the student rolls. Should this occur, the student will be required to submit a formal application for admission to the Graduate School again, and the student's credentials will be reviewed, along with those of all other applicants, in accordance with the admission criteria in effect at that time. Information, requirements, and application forms are available at the Rosenstiel School Graduate Studies Office.

Academic Probation and Dismissal

If the Faculty Advisor or Committee Chairperson is unsatisfied with a student's academic performance, the thesis/dissertation committee (if not formed, the MGS Program Academic Committee) will be called on for a meeting. Immediately following the meeting, the Faculty Advisor or Committee Chairperson will send the student a written notice outlining the committee's academic expectations and will inform the MGS Academic Committee of the meeting's outcome. If no improvements are observed by the end of the same semester, a grade of "U" (for Unsatisfactory) may be given for the student's research credits (MGS 810 or 830), and the student will be on academic probation. One semester of probationary period will be given to the student. If no successful academic progress is made in the following semester, the student may be dismissed from the Department.

Non-Degree Status

A non-degree student may earn up to 12 credits.

Certificate in Applied Carbonate Geology

The goal of the Certificate Program is to provide first-rate continuing education to professionals or geology students who want to become experts in carbonate geology. To reach this goal, courses are offered in carbonate sedimentology, seismic stratigraphy, petrophysics, and geochemistry for advanced knowledge and understanding of carbonate systems.

A bachelor's degree or equivalent degree is required for attendance. This requirement can be offset by years of working experience. GRE or TOEFL is not required, but a working knowledge of English is required.

The Certificate Program is offered in the Spring Semester and the 1st Summer Session of each year. Successful completion of the program will require 16 course credits. There are ten electable 2- or 3-credit courses in the program. Participants will not write a thesis, but the courses are structured so that classroom knowledge is directly applied in subsequent laboratory classes and projects.

Transfer of Credit

Graduate course credits, with grades of "B" or above, may be transferred from other accredited institutions to the University of Miami to meet graduate degree requirements, upon written petition by the student and with the approval of the MGS Program Director. Forms are available from the Graduate Studies Office. In no case will credit be transferred until having completed, with grades of "B" or above, an equivalent number of course credits at the University of Miami. At most, 6 credits can be transferred toward the M.S. and 9 credits toward the Ph.D. for students who do not already hold an M.S. degree. Students who receive a M.S. degree from another university are normally given credit for 24 course credits.

Recency of Credit

All work, including credit transferred from other institutions, must be completed within 6 years of the time of admission to graduate work for those studying for the M.S. degree, and within 8 years for those studying for the Ph.D. degree. Validation of over-age credits is possible only by successful examination of the pertinent course material, and with the endorsement of the thesis/dissertation committee.

Student Publications

Student publication and presentation of thesis/dissertation results is encouraged by the Department. All publications must be reviewed by the student's Faculty Advisor or Committee Chairperson before submittal. Abstracts or manuscripts submitted without an MGS faculty member as a co-author must be approved in writing by the Faculty Advisor or Committee Chairperson. Written notification should be sent to the MGS Academic Committee; this is required before submitting the manuscript/abstract.

Geotopics Lecture Series

All MGS students are expected to attend the department's weekly seminar, Geotopics. The diverse lecture series presents recent and ongoing research by Rosenstiel School faculty and visiting scientists. These presentations help provide a broad, well-rounded view of research topics in the earth sciences. Attendance will be recorded at these departmental events. In addition to confirming program requirements, attendance may form part of the criteria for end of year MGS student awards.

Student Titles

All MGS graduate students paid through the University have the title of either Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant. These titles should be used for correspondence. The title of Research Associate is reserved for post-doctoral positions within the Department and should not be used by graduate students.

Course Changes

Students may drop courses each semester until the dates specified in the University Academic Calendar. Forms are available from the Rosenstiel School Graduate Studies Office.

Grade Changes

When a course is completed for which a grade of "Incomplete" has been recorded, the grade must be changed by means of a form available in the Graduate Studies Office. Incompletes must normally be made up by the end of the following semester. An instructor can require a student to fulfill an incomplete by providing appropriate notice.

Travel to Scientific Meetings

The Student Travel Fund (STF) is a graduate student-run committee that awards funds to Rosenstiel School graduate students for travel to present at scientific conferences and to conduct research. Only students who are presenting results from their thesis or dissertation research are supported. Guidelines are available from the MGS representative on the Student Travel Fund Committee.

Clearance Procedures

When a student leaves the Rosenstiel School, whether by graduation, leave of absence, or withdrawal, they must obtain a Clearance Form from the Graduate Studies Office. The form must be signed by the designated persons and returned to the Graduate Studies Office.

Leave of Absence

If a student wishes to take a leave of absence, a written request to the thesis/dissertation committee or the MGS Academic Committee is necessary. The committee sends the request, along with its recommendation, to the Graduate Studies Office. A leave is normally granted up to one year. When the student wishes to return, an Application for Readmission must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office. A student taking a leave of absence must complete a Clearance Form. These forms are available from the Graduate Studies Office.

Withdrawal

If a student wishes to withdraw from MGS, they must notify the Graduate Studies Office in writing. A clearance form must be completed.

Graduation

A student ready to graduate must apply for graduation in the semester they intend to graduate. This must be done either at registration or no later than the deadline specified in the University Academic Calendar. Applications are completed online through CaneLink. The student must be registered for the semester in which the thesis or dissertation is defended.

Understanding of the Student Guidelines

Upon admission, students are required to sign an acknowledgement form stating that they have read and understand the UM Graduate Student Handbook, the Rosenstiel School Graduate Student Handbook, and the MGS Program Student Handbook, and that they will abide by the said guidelines.

Appendix A
MGS Graduate Faculty 2026- 2027

Sam Purkis: Department Chair
Amanda Oehlert: Graduate Program Director
(Chairperson of the Program Academic Committee)

Falk Amelung
Sara Bashah
Keir Becker (Professor Emeritus)
Laura Camila Chaves
Gregor Eberli
Ryan Glaubke
Samuel Goldberg
Adam Holt
James Klaus
Guoqing Lin
Larry Peterson (Professor Emeritus)
Ali Pourmand
Pamela Reid (Professor Emeritus)
Ben Ross
Peter Swart
Ralf Weger

Appendix B

MGS Courses offered in the past 3 years (3 credits, unless otherwise stated)

MGS 601: Oceanography I (Geological)
MGS 611: Earth Surface Processes
MGS 613: Introduction to Geochemistry
MGS 614: Geophysics
MGS 619: Field Studies of Geobiology in Tropical Marine Environments
MGS 634: Hydrological Hazards
MGS 635: Geological Hazards
MGS 641: Field Evaluation of Fossil Platforms, Margins, & Basins (2 cr)
MGS 642: Field Evaluation of Fossil Platforms, Margins, & Basins II (2 cr)
MGS 650: Mathematical Methods for Geoscientists
MGS 679: Plate Tectonics
MGS 681: Petroleum Geology
MGS 682: Introduction to Seismology
MGS 687: Facies Succession on Great Bahama Bank (2 cr)
MGS 688: Heterogeneity of a Windward Margin (2 cr)
MGS 701: Seminar in Marine Geosciences (1 cr)
MGS 720: Satellite Radar Interferometry in the Earth Sciences
MGS 721: Petroleum Geology of Carbonates (2 cr)
MGS 722: Geophysical Inverse Theory
MGS 723: Geodynamics
MGS 724: Seismic Interpretation of Carbonate Systems (2 cr)
MGS 725: Petrophysics of Carbonates (2 cr)
MGS 726: Carbonate Diagenesis & Petrography (2 cr)
MGS 727: Analysis of Carbonate Cores and Logs (2 cr)
MGS 728: Advanced Seismology
MGS 750: Stable Isotopes in Biogeochemical Processes
MGS 761: Sedimentary Petrography
MGS 768: Radiogenic Isotope Geochemistry
MGS 771: Diagenesis of Carbonate Sediments
MGS 772: Basin Analysis and Seismic Interpretation
MGS 776: Paleoclimatology
MGS 777: Physical Volcanology

MGS 810: Master's Thesis
MGS 830: Doctoral Dissertation

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ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE**



Marine Geosciences (MGS)

GRADUATE STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

It is the requirement of the Department of Marine Geosciences at the University of Miami (UM)'s Rosenstiel School of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Science (Rosenstiel School) that any student participating in the M.S. and Ph.D. Programs must adhere to the policies articulated in the following documents: UM Graduate Student Handbook, the Rosenstiel School Graduate Student Handbook, and the MGS Program Student Handbook. Students must provide evidence of this agreement by signing this Graduate Student Acknowledgement Form.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read the requirements and procedures provided in the above documents and accept responsibility for knowledge of the contents of the current year's Graduate Student Handbooks and the requirements for your degree.

Graduate Student's Name (Please Print)

Graduate Student's Signature

Date
