

SOIL SCIENCE, M.S.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	30 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	16 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	Half of degree coursework (15 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/)).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements Required courses in soil science must be completed with a grade of B or better (BC and C may not be offset by AB and A). For all other courses, the requirement is an average record of B or better in all work taken as a graduate student.

Assessments and Examinations Students are expected to present a written research plan to their committee no later than the end of the third semester of M.S. graduate work.

Candidates must present an open seminar on their M.S. thesis research, and pass a comprehensive examination (either oral, or an oral-written combination if requested by the candidate) on the graduate work offered in support of their candidacy.

Deposit of the master's thesis is required.

Language Requirements No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
SOIL SCI 301	General Soil Science	4
SOIL SCI 325	Soils and Landscapes	3
SOIL SCI 728	Graduate Seminar ¹	1
At least one course from 3 of the following 5 subject areas:		9

Soil Physics

SOIL SCI 322	Physical Principles of Soil and Water Management
SOIL SCI/ AGRONOMY/ ATM OCN 532	Environmental Biophysics
SOIL SCI 622	Soil Physics

Soil Chemistry

SOIL SCI 321	Soils and Environmental Chemistry
SOIL SCI 621	Soil Chemistry
SOIL SCI/ BOTANY/ HORT 626	Mineral Nutrition of Plants

Soil Biology

SOIL SCI/ PL PATH 323	Soil Biology
SOIL SCI/ MICROBIO 523	Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry
SOIL SCI/ CIV ENGR 623	Microbiology of Waterborne Pathogens and Indicator Organisms

Soil Fertility

SOIL SCI/ AGRONOMY/ HORT 326	Plant Nutrition Management
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Spatial Analysis

SOIL SCI/ ENVIR ST/ LAND ARC 695	Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Natural Resources	
GEOG/ CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST 377	An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	
SOIL SCI 990	Research ²	1-12

M.S. candidates must enroll in a minimum of 7 credits non-research soils and/or non-soils courses at the 500 level or higher. This should include 1 credit of SOIL SCI 728 (presentation semester).

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All M.S. candidates must present at least one SOIL SCI 728 for a letter grade \geq B or equivalent during M.S. program. Each candidate must enroll in SOIL SCI 728 every fall and spring semester; exceptions require the approval of the department chair.

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M.S. candidates must enroll in a minimum of 1 credit of SOIL SCI 990 every semester.