

M.S. Geosciences Graduate Admissions Rubric

The purpose of the rubric is to give comparable, relative assessment of admissions materials; all final decisions are reached by the faculty admissions committee via discussion and consensus. Summation of point totals from the rubric would provide the initial data for a ranking of applicants.

Criteria

1. Alignment with Geosciences faculty research if student intends to pursue thesis option.
2. Personal statement: writing
3. Personal statement: goals
4. Undergraduate transcript/record (with quality of college/university considered)
5. Letters of reference
6. Verbal GRE score
7. Quantitative GRE score
8. Research/work experience

	0	1	2	3
Alignment with Geosciences faculty research if student intends to pursue the thesis option.	No alignment evident	Some alignment but no faculty research noted in the application	Some alignment and faculty research is noted in the application	Strong alignment and faculty research is noted in the application
Personal statement: writing (1-2 pages)	Poor writing quality and statement is either too short (e.g., one paragraph) or too long (three or more pages)	Fair writing quality and statement is of appropriate length or just outside the acceptable limits	Good writing quality and statement is of appropriate length	Excellent writing quality and statement is of appropriate length
Personal statement: goals	Unclear intent; not relevant to Geosciences program	Fair statement of somewhat unclear goals	Good, clear statement of goals	Excellent, compelling, and clear statement of goals
Undergraduate transcript/record <i>(quality of college/university should be weighed as well as GPA)</i>	Both cumulative and program GPA less than 2.7	Cumulative GPA: 2.7-3.0 Program GPA: 3.0-3.5	Cumulative GPA: 3.0-3.5 Program GPA: 3.3-3.7	Cumulative GPA: 3.5-4.0 Program GPA: 3.7-4.0
Letters of reference	Poor letters with explicit and significant reservations about applicant	Weak letters with some minor reservations about applicant	Strong letters with clear supporting evidence	Excellent letters with specific references to pertinent competencies, aptitudes, and experiences
Verbal GRE	Percentile < 50	Percentile ≥ 50 and < 60	Percentile ≥ 60 and < 70	Percentile ≥ 70
Quantitative GRE	Percentile < 50	Percentile ≥ 50 and < 60	Percentile ≥ 60 and < 70	Percentile ≥ 70
Research/work experience	No research or work experience in the field of study or a closely related field	Some research or work experience in the field of study or a closely related field	Considerable research or work experience in the field of study or a closely related field	Extensive research or work experience in the field of study or a closely related field

International students required to take the TOEFL exam must score at least a minimum of 90 on the exam to be considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship. The maximum score on the exam is 120, and the minimum score for admission to GSU is 80.