

SOIL SCIENCE, MS

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), 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	15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
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 MS graduate work.

Candidates must present an open seminar on their MS 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
Core Coursework		
SOIL SCI 301	General Soil Science	3
SOIL SCI 302	Meet Your Soil: Soil Analysis and Interpretation Laboratory	1
Soil Science Foundation		
Complete at least one course from 4 of the following 5 areas and a total of 15 credits.		15
<i>Soil Physics</i>		
PLANTSCI/ ATM OCN 532	Environmental Biophysics	
	or SOIL SCI 622 Soil Physics	
<i>Soil Chemistry</i> ¹		
SOIL SCI 621	Soil and Environmental Chemistry	
	or SOIL SCI/ F&W ECOL 451	
<i>Soil Biology</i> ¹		
SOIL SCI 323	Soil Biology	
	or SOIL SCI/ F&W ECOL 451	
	or SOIL SCI/ MICROBIO 523	
<i>Soil Fertility</i>		
SOIL SCI 326	Plant Nutrition Management	
<i>Environmental Soil Science</i>		
SOIL SCI/ ENVIR ST 324	Soils and Environmental Quality	
	or SOIL SCI 327 Environmental Monitoring and Soil Characterization	
Other Required Coursework		
SOIL SCI 728	Graduate Seminar ²	1
SOIL SCI 990	Research ³	4
Elective Coursework		
MS candidates must enroll in a minimum of 6 credits of non-research courses approved by the student's examination committee and/or advisor.		6
Total Credits		30

- ¹ Students who take SOIL SCI/F&W ECOL 451 Environmental Biogeochemistry may use the credits toward the Soil Chemistry requirement or the Soil Biology requirement, but it cannot count towards both categories.
- ² All MS candidates give a presentation in SOIL SCI 728 at least once during their MS program.
- ³ MS candidates must enroll in a minimum of 1 credit of SOIL SCI 990 every semester.