

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
SOIL SCI 301	General Soil Science	3
SOIL SCI 302	Meet Your Soil: Soil Analysis and Interpretation Laboratory	1
At least one course from 4 of the following 5 areas:		15

Soil Physics

SOIL SCI 532
or SOIL SCI 622 Soil Physics

Soil Chemistry¹

SOIL SCI 321
or SOIL SCI/ F&W ECOL 451 Environmental Biogeochemistry
or SOIL SCI 621 Soil and Environmental Chemistry
or SOIL SCI 626

Soil Biology¹

SOIL SCI 323 Soil Biology
or SOIL SCI/ F&W ECOL 451 Environmental Biogeochemistry
or SOIL SCI/ MICROBIO 523 Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry

Soil Fertility

SOIL SCI 326 Plant Nutrition Management

Environmental Soil Science

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

MS candidates must enroll in a minimum of 6 credits of non-research courses approved by the student's examination committee and/or advisor.

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 Soil Science, MS

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.