

SOIL SCIENCE, PH.D.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), 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 51 credits

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 32 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 51 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 (<http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle>).

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 Candidates must complete the Ph.D. prospectus, which consists of the prospectus seminar, the written prospectus, and prospectus examination.

Candidates are required to take a preliminary examination.

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree are subject to a final oral examination on their dissertation and the general fields of the major and minor studies. Candidates must present an open seminar on their Ph.D. research findings, followed by oral defense of the dissertation in front of the doctoral committee.

Deposit of the doctoral dissertation is required.

Language Requirements No language requirements.

Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements All doctoral students are required to complete a minor. Ph.D. candidates in soil science must supplement their major study with a minimum of 9 credits in graduate courses in another field. These courses must be selected according to a coherent plan under Option A or Option B as follows:

Option A–External: A student must offer at least 9 credits from a degree program outside the soil science major. Selection of this option requires approval of the minor department.

Option B–Distributed: A distributed minor for a student studying for a Ph.D. in soil science shall consist of a minimum of 10 credits of graduate-level courses in one or more departments. Selection of this option requires approval of the certification committee.

A minor program must be approved by the minor department (Option A) or by the Department of Soil Science Certification Committee (Option B) no later than the end of the second semester of Ph.D. graduate work (not including summer sessions). A copy of the completed minor agreement form is needed to obtain the warrant for the preliminary exam.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
SOIL SCI 301	General Soil Science	4
SOIL SCI 325	Soils and Landscapes	3
SOIL SCI/ AGRONOMY/ ATM OCN 532	Environmental Biophysics	3
or SOIL SCI 622	Soil Physics	
SOIL SCI 621	Soil Chemistry	3
or SOIL SCI/ BOTANY/ HORT 626	Mineral Nutrition of Plants	
SOIL SCI/ MICROBIO 523	Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry	3

SOIL SCI 728	Graduate Seminar ¹	2
SOIL SCI 799	Practicum in Soil Science Teaching ²	1-3
SOIL SCI 990	Research ³	10-14
A minimum of 8 credits, non-research at the 500 or higher level, which includes two credits of graduate seminar.		8
Doctoral Minor		9
Total Credits		51

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All Ph.D. candidates must present at least two seminars in SOIL SCI 728 for a letter grade \geq B or equivalent during Ph.D. program. One of the seminars must be on the student's prospectus. 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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All candidates pursuing a Soil Science Ph.D. shall complete a minimum of 1 credit of SOIL SCI 799. A written plan for satisfying this requirement shall be prepared by the student in conjunction with the advisor and approved by the Certification Committee. The type and level of effort required to earn one or more degree credits in SOIL SCI 799 shall be in accordance with the guidelines and standards set forth by the CALS Curriculum Committee and approved by the UW Divisional Committees in the Spring Semester 1981.

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Ph.D. candidates are required to enroll in at least 1 credit of SOIL SCI 990 every semester. Students may take beyond 14 credits, but they do not count toward the program minimum requirements.