Department of Geography and Earth Sciences  
MS Earth Sciences Research Option

Total credit hours: 30

**Required courses (20 credit hours):**

- ESCI 6600 - Earth Sciences Graduate Seminar (1) (taken twice for a total of 2 credits)
- ESCI 6900 - Earth Sciences Research (9)
- 9 credit hours of 5000- or 6000-level course credits exclusive of ESCI 5800, ESCI 6800, GEOL 6800, and GEOG 6800 (independent studies)

**Elective courses (10 credit hours):**

Selected from ESCI 5XXX-6XXX, GEOG 5XXX-6XXX, and/or GEOL 5XXX-6XXX

**Of note:**

- Need at least 18 credit hours at the 6000 level, including ESCI 6600 and ESCI 6900
- Additional credit hours of ESCI 6900 beyond the required 9 credit hours may be applied as elective credits

**Research committee:**

- Minimum of three members composed of the graduate faculty of the Department or associated departments
- Additional members are acceptable and in many cases outside members, such as internship coordinators from off-campus agencies, are advisable
- Your advisor is Chair of the committee

**Proposal defense:**

- Oral defense of a written proposal of project or thesis research in front of research committee
- Prepare a Powerpoint presentation of your proposal for the defense
- It is expected that the proposal presentation occur by the end of the second semester for full-time students, and must be completed no later than the end of the third semester for full-time students

**Final defense:**

- Oral defense of a written project report or thesis in front of research committee
● Prepare a Powerpoint presentation of your report/thesis for the defense
● At least one week prior to the defense, the student must provide a digital version of the research report or thesis to the research committee and place a digital copy in the appropriate public online folder hosted by the Department for review by all interested faculty and students. At the same time, the advisor must formally notify all faculty and students in the Department of the date, time, place, and topic (title with abstract) of the defense