

UNH EARTH SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM INFORMATION, 2009-2010.

Advising and Course Selection, MS Program

Graduate Student Advising takes place at a meeting of new students and faculty on **Tuesday, August 25th following the Graduate School's Orientation.**

2-3 pm ESci Grad Student Orientation	Nesmith Hall G27
3-4 pm ESci Advising Session	Nesmith Hall G27
4-7pm Reception	Davis Residence (2 Maple St.)

During the advising meeting you can discuss your class schedule with your initial advisor (listed on your acceptance letter from the Graduate School) and other faculty or returning students. You should also feel free to discuss your program with the Graduate Coordinator, Matt Davis. Your major is determined by the core curriculum you take, not by the advisor's specialty. Core curricula for the various graduate degrees can be found at the department website (www.unh.edu/esci/index.html) or in the Graduate Catalog which is available online at (<http://www.gradschool.unh.edu/pdf/catalog.pdf>).

In the Fall Semester, new masters students register for Esci 997 (Earth Sciences Seminar, one credit) and two or three other courses, for a total of 9-12 credits. Tuition scholarship students must register for at least 9 credits including Esci 997. Unsupported students can carry any load they want but should register for Esci 997. Students on assistantships must register for at least 6 credits; most take 9 credits. During your graduate program tenure you should also register for at least two, one-credit topical seminars (Esci 993-994), which can be taken at any time from the selection offered.

Perhaps the first consideration is satisfying the "core curriculum" for your major. Normally these core courses are taught once a year, every year (sometimes a year may be skipped because of faculty leaves). Sometimes it's smart to postpone a core course in order to take something more important as thesis background. Some non-core courses are taught on an infrequent, irregular basis; in which case you should not postpone it.

What about courses outside the department? Normally graduate credit is given for science, math and engineering courses numbered 700 and higher (i.e., senior level or higher). There are numerous offerings in chemistry, civil engineering, natural resources, etc. Many of these are offered every year. Check the registration website and departmental bulletin boards for last-minute special courses that aren't listed in the Time and Room Schedule.

Can you take undergraduate courses? Scholarships and assistantships will pay for undergraduate courses if your advisor testifies that they are an essential part of your program. Some courses you may want to take for interest and to improve your knowledge. In some cases advisors may insist that you take one or two particular undergraduate courses (for example, differential equations, physical chemistry) for no graduate credit if you want to do thesis research with them on some particular topic.

All Earth Sciences graduate students should attend the NRESS Seminar and Chapman Colloquium, which meet most Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. Please check announcements for location. The NRESS seminar is intended for all masters and doctoral students in the diverse fields of earth and environmental sciences. The Chapman Colloquium is a more intimate seminar which covers narrower topics of interest to students in the Department of Earth Sciences. Please keep an eye out for announcements of these seminars as you are expected to attend them.

You may view the Time and Room Schedule of Fall courses on-line at <http://unhinfo.unh.edu/Campus/regis/tr-sched-main/index.html>. New graduate students can register online until September 9th, 2009, or you can submit paper copies to the Registrar's office (we have forms available in the Department office). Returning graduate students need to register by August 30, 2009. More detailed information can be found at <http://unhinfo.unh.edu/registrar/inforeg/gradreg.html>.

Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

The department offers a non-thesis MS option as well as the traditional MS with thesis. The principal advantage of the non-thesis option is that the graduation date is more predictable and that more formal course work is taken. Among the advantages of the traditional thesis option is the experience gained by undertaking an in-depth research project, a learning experience which is perceived by many students as beneficial to their career goals and which may be important to certain types of employers. You don't have to decide immediately which way you'll go, but it is something to think about as you're picking your courses.

Advisor Selection

You have been assigned an initial advisor based on the interests stated in your application. This assignment, however, can and should change if your research interests change. A student should formalize the advisor relationship by the end of the spring semester course, Esci 998 (Proposal Development), by completing a form that is available from the Department Office (or you can print out a copy from <http://www.gradschool.unh.edu/pdf/mastercommittee.pdf>). On the form, students in the thesis option will include at least two additional faculty members who will participate in their thesis work.

How will you find an advisor? Any professor can serve as advisor for any degree or major. This relationship usually develops on the basis of mutual interests as discovered and developed in courses, on field trips, and in colloquia, or other departmental gatherings. The faculty web pages (<http://www.unh.edu/esci/faculty.html>) are a good source of information on faculty activities and interests.

Students in the thesis option with an advisor are ready to register for Esci 899 (Master's Thesis). Six credits are required. Students in the non-thesis option may decide when to register for two credits of Esci 898 (Directed Research), although most do so in their last semester.

Miscellaneous Info

UNH I.D.: UNH I.D. cards serve as your library card, your recreation pass, and your meal card. I.D.'s are issued at Holloway Commons, room 101, from 8:30 to 4:00 p.m., M-F. You can get an ID if you're in the UNH student database. They have additional hours during the first week of school. Bring identification. (see the Graduate Schools "Welcome" website for more information at <http://www.gradschool.unh.edu/greetings.html>).

Mailbox: No matter where your office is, your official department mailbox will always be in Nesmith Hall Room G26 (until the move back into James Hall). If your office is in Morse or Chase, you will likely have an additional mailbox there; however, mail addressed to James Hall will not be forwarded to those buildings, so please check your James mailbox frequently!

Keys: During the James Hall renovation, you will be assigned office space in Nesmith Hall, Hewitt Annex, Parsons Hall, Morse Hall or Chase Hall, and you can expect to be assigned keys as needed. Nesmith Hall and Hewitt Annex keys are handled in the Earth Sciences Department Office. If you need assistance in securing office keys in Morse, Parsons or Chase, the Earth Sciences Department Office staff can help point you in the right direction.

Computing: Please go to http://www.gradschool.unh.edu/home/myunh_instructions.html for more information on how to set up your UNH email account.

The Department maintains the **Tischler Computer Classroom** in Nesmith G25 and the **Research Computing Lab** in Nesmith G12. You are welcome to use these computers at any time when they are not being used for a class. These computers can be accessed using your university WILDCAT computer account.

Photocopying: UNH has a campus-wide network of photocopiers that are accessed using your Cat's Cache account. The busy department office photocopier is not available for student use, except in certain circumstances. A list of available copiers can be found at <http://www.printing.unh.edu/copynet.html>. Teaching assistants are to use the Department copier only for materials needed for the class they are teaching.

Office Supplies: Students are responsible for purchasing their own office supplies, except in the case of teaching assistants needing marking pens, overhead projection pens, or other supplies needed for teaching purposes.

Audio-Visual Training: All teaching assistants are required to take Audio-Visual Training, which trains you in the use of the equipment (computers, computer projection, VCR, slide and overhead projectors) used in UNH classrooms, and authorizes you to receive keys/combinations to the locked equipment panels. Training is available over the internet via Blackboard. More information can be found at <http://cis.unh.edu/index.cfm?id=88512F54-A873-1BE0-51F7D490DD7FC85C>.

Defensive Driving: All teaching assistants are required to take the UNH Defensive Driving Course as soon as possible. All other graduate students should consider taking the course.

The Department will pay the fee. Completion of the course is required in order to use the Earth Sciences Van or the Enterprise rental fleet of cars and vans. There is an online course in which you have two-weeks to complete, or there is a 6-hour one day course available (usually on a Saturday). Please contact the Earth Sciences office for details; more info on the class can be found at <http://www.unh.edu/transportation/ddc/index.htm>.

Getting Dept. News: The Dept. Office maintains an email address list of graduate students and this is the way we normally contact you regarding dept. news and activities. We will use your UNH email address unless you provide us a preferred address. (*Note: The Graduate School will send all official email to your UNH account.*)

Health Care: Please go to <http://www.unh.edu/health-services/shbp/> to see information on Graduate Student Healthcare.