CWU M.S. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

CWU Graduate Program Requirements
1. Must take ≥5 credits of 501 or higher each quarter if drawing financial aid (loans, grants, or assistantships). Loans/grants/paychecks will not disburse if student has less than 5 credits of 500-level unless the 400-level classes are on approved Course of Study form.

2. Only 500 and approved 400-level (Course of Study form) count towards MS degree. (But all classes count towards GPA)

3. 100-300 level classes do not count towards graduate degree, but should be listed at top of Course of Study Form as pre-reqs if known.

4. Financial aid will only count towards 150% of number of required credits (90 in your case)

5. RAs and TAs must take 10-14 credits per quarter. Don’t sign up late for classes or you may have to pay for additional credits! Make sure that faculty members turn in forms on time. (Peggy in the Grad Office sends out reminders if folks are below 10 credits, but don’t wait to be told)

***note: each quarter tuition will show up until the end of drop/add, but will eventually disappear if student is on an assistantship. Certain fees (~$220/quarter) are still the responsibility of the student.**

6. All grads must fill out FAFSA before fall quarter starts (will jeopardize assistantships if not)

7. Student must maintain 3.0 GPA. If student drops to probationary status he/she must pull above 3.0 by following quarter or may get the boot unless dept supports an appeal.

8. Grads must be enrolled in at least 2 credits during the quarter they defend their thesis

Required Geology Graduate Courses
Specifically required classes: 14 credits

GEOL 501: Current Topics in Geology (1st year Fall Quarter, 3 credits)
GEOL 502: Regional Field Geology of the Pacific Northwest (1st year Fall Quarter, 2 credits)
GEOL 503: Introductory Graduate Research Methods (1st year Winter Quarter, 3 credits)
GEOL 504: Graduate Research Seminar (1 credit per quarter; first 6 quarters enrolled)

Other required credits: 46 credits
Electives and Seminars to be selected by advisement (25-31 credits)
GEOL 595: Thesis Research (9-15 credits)
GEOL 700: Master’s Thesis (6 credits)

Total: 60 (no financial aid above 90 credits; ≥25 credits must be 500-level or higher)

Required Geology Graduate Examinations
1) Thesis presentation (before May 15 in your first year)
   You will submit a written and oral thesis proposal to your committee*. Your committee will then orally examine you on your general and thesis-specific geologic knowledge.

2) Thesis defense (approximately 2 years after starting the program)
   You will submit your thesis to your committee* at least 2 weeks before the defense date. Your defense will be an oral presentation by you, followed by an oral examination by your committee on the science and methods used in your research.

*A thesis committee must be made up of at least three members – at least two of which must be members of the CWU Geological Sciences Faculty