

We are pleased that you are interested in graduate school at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, in the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering.

Admissions guidelines and procedures for the South Dakota School of Mines graduate programs can be found on this page: <http://www.sdsmt.edu/Academics/Graduate-Education/Prospective-Graduate-Students/>

Additional information of international students can be found here:
<http://www.sdsmt.edu/international/>

The TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE exam is required for students whose native language is not English.

Here are some answers to questions commonly asked by students preparing to apply to one of the degree programs in the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering.

When is my application due?

Applications are due on February 15 for the next Fall semester and August 15 for the next Spring semester. Applications submitted after the due date will still be considered but are less likely to be offered financial support. Because most or all of our funding is committed to students entering in the fall semester, we rarely have funding to support students starting in the spring. We recommend that students who desire funding apply by February 15 and start in the fall.

What are your criteria for admission?

Many factors contribute to the success of an application, including the goals statement, coursework, grades, test scores, work experience, recommendations, and availability of a faculty member in the student's anticipated research area. In general we prefer to see a GPA of 3.0 or above. Different specializations have different background coursework requirements, as described in the online catalog:

Geology/Geological Engineering background requirements (M.S. and Ph.D.):

https://ecatalog.sdsmt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=23&poid=2311&returnto=5794

https://ecatalog.sdsmt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=23&poid=2312&returnto=5794

Paleontology background requirements (M.S.):

https://ecatalog.sdsmt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=23&poid=2317&returnto=5794

What are my chances of admission?

Because we consider the entire application, we cannot speculate on your chances of admission informally from your resume or test scores. We will only evaluate a full application.

What kind of research would I be doing?

Successful applicants are paired immediately with a faculty advisor in the area of your research interest. Before applying, please review our faculty research pages to determine what research areas we cover; we are unlikely to admit students with interests outside these areas. You are encouraged to contact individual faculty to discuss potential research projects that might be available.

<https://www.sdsmt.edu/Academics/Departments/Geology-and-Geological-Engineering/Research/Research/>

What are my chances of financial support?

Funding may take two forms: teaching assistantships (GTA) or research assistantships (GRA). We typically offer about six full-time (20 hours per week) GTA positions in which students work with faculty to teach and grade laboratory sections of undergraduate courses. Awards are currently made for one academic year, primarily to first-year students, although some students may be invited to teach additional semesters. GRA positions are available when faculty have research grants, but vary widely in availability and timing. We recommend that you talk to individual faculty about potential research support.

Do I have to apply separately for funding?

You do not need to apply separately for funding. We automatically consider all admitted applicants for funding. However, because of limited availability, not all admitted students receive support. Awards are usually made to the most academically qualified students with good research interest matches to the faculty.

When will I know if I am accepted?

We recommend that you apply to start in the Fall semester, for which applications are due the previous February 15. If you complete your application by the due date, you will hear from us about March 1 concerning your admission and potential funding. At that time, you may be admitted with funding, admitted as an alternate for funding, admitted without funding, or declined for admission. Applicants with award offers must accept the offer in writing within 30 days, or it will be re-awarded to an alternate.

All other applicants, including late applicants after February 15, and applicants applying for Spring admission, will generally hear about the application within 3-4 weeks after the application is complete. However, funding for late and spring applicants is not usually available.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.