

# **MGG/MGS Academic Program Supplemental Student Handbook**

## **MGG/MGS-Specific Requirements Only – 15 April 2015**

### Preface

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the RSMAS Graduate Academic Committee decided that the student handbooks for each RSMAS academic program should be reorganized to specify only program-specific requirements. General university-wide graduate requirements are set out in the UM Graduate School Student Handbook, available at [http://www.miami.edu/gs/index.php/graduate\\_school/](http://www.miami.edu/gs/index.php/graduate_school/). RSMAS-wide policies and procedures are set out in the RSMAS graduate handbook, available under the “current students” tab at <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/academics/graduate-programs/>. All MGG/MGS students should consult copies of both of these handbooks for definitive statements of most requirements, policies, and procedures that should govern their studies and degree process. This MGG/MGS supplement sets out only policies and procedures that are specific to the MGG/MGS academic programs. These include: policies about required or recommended coursework; procedures for the MGG/MGS comprehensive exam; and procedures for the annual reviews of MGG/MGS students.

### Effects of Program Name Change from MGG to MGS

It was originally anticipated that the official change from the MGG academic program formerly run by the Division of Marine Geology and Geophysics to the MGS academic program run by the new Department of Marine Geosciences would be finalized by the beginning of the 2015-2016 academic year. However, it appears that obtaining full accreditation for the new MGS academic program will require a few months beyond that. Therefore all students who enter the program through fall semester 2015 will matriculate as MGG students. Any student who starts as an MGG student may elect to take his/her degree in either Marine Geology & Geophysics or Marine Geosciences. Students who enter after the final change of program name to Marine Geosciences will earn their degrees in Marine Geosciences.

### Specific MGG/MGS Course Requirements and Recommendations

1. Course credits for completion of a Ph.D. in MGG/MGS: Whereas the RSMAS requirement is for 24 course credits, the MGG/MGS program requires a total of 36 course credits for the Ph.D. Of these, 3 course credits must be from outside of the MGG/MGS course curriculum.
2. Course credits for completion of an M.S.: 24 course credits that may all be from the MGG/MGS course curriculum.
3. MGG/MGS Student Seminar course (formerly MGG601, to become MGS701). All M.S. and Ph.D. students are required to participate regularly in this course throughout their residency and must register for it (1 credit) one time to graduate.
4. First-year course recommendations: It is strongly recommended that all first year students should enroll in at least 3 of the following 4 courses: Earth

Surface Systems (MGG511, to become MGS611), Introduction to Geochemistry (MGG513, to become MGS613), Introduction to Geophysics (MGG514, to become MGS614), and Paleoclimatology (MGG676, to become MGS 776).

### Comprehensive Examination Procedures

The MGG/MGS comprehensive examination is normally administered once per year, in May or early June after the conclusion of the spring semester. Students who enter the program for the fall semester are expected to take the comprehensive exam after the conclusion of the spring semester. Students who enter the program in the spring semester will generally take the comprehensive exam after the following spring semester.

The MGG/MGS comprehensive exam traditionally consists of two parts, administered on separate days: (1) a day of written questions assembled from all MGG/MGS faculty and (2) a follow-up oral exam approximately an hour-long administered by a panel of 3-4 MGG/MGS faculty with a range of expertise. The written questions span the full range of subfields within the MGG/MGS program, and that part of the exam is generally structured to allow some choice among questions within a subfield. The oral exam committee will generally conclude with a judgment as to whether the student has passed the comprehensive exam. If not, the RSMAS student handbook sets out policies that allow for one possible re-examination in the following semester.

The intent of recommendation (4) under Course Requirements above is to ensure preparation across the range of subfields within MGG/MGS. If a student does not follow those recommendations and performs poorly in one of these subfields on the comprehensive exam, it may trigger a requirement to enroll in the respective course as a condition for further advancement in the MGG/MGS program.

### Procedures for Annual Student Reviews

The annual student reviews required for all RSMAS students are generally conducted by the MGG/MGS Academic Committee every fall semester. Students who enter in the fall semester or who have firm plans to defend in the fall semester are generally exempted from the annual review. Every other student must fulfill the annual review. This includes both the student and his/her advisor completing sections the MGG/MGS version of a RSMAS-wide annual review form as well as a brief meeting with the academic committee to verify adequate progress and resolve any potential issues.