

Geology 198 A & B Guidelines

(Senior Research Project)

Senior Research Projects are expected to be independent and original research. This means that you should develop the project yourself, get it approved, carry it through to completion and (usually) write a report with only limited assistance from faculty members. If you have a paid job in geology, the 198 project should not be part of your job. Your project may expand on, but not duplicate, published work. The project should be sufficiently small in scope that you will be able to do a thorough study. (Mapping El Dorado County is not a good project; mapping one road cut may be.)

Senior Research includes two classes: Geology 198A and Geology 198B. Geology 198A will be taught by a faculty member that may or may not be your "sponsor" for Geology 198B. Geology 198A is a prerequisite for Geology 198B. Geology 198A is a course designed to help you construct your proposal for research. That research will be carried out in your Geology 198B course, usually the semester following Geology 198A.

Your sponsoring faculty member is the one who will supervise and grade your final project (198B). The concept for your project must be approved during your Geology 198A course by your sponsoring faculty member. The form for approval of your concept may vary from faculty member to faculty member -- it may be an oral discussion and understanding, or it may be a written outline of your proposal. Consult your sponsor well in advance to make sure you understand what is required.

Two copies each of your final written proposal and of your 198B petition form must be signed by **your Geology 198A instructor, your sponsoring faculty member and another faculty member** (2nd reader on your thesis committee) and placed in the department mailbox of the Geology Department Chair **by the end of your Geology 198A semester**. Be sure that you start your planning in time. Each faculty member that signs your petition may ask you to rewrite your proposal. At the time you develop your project concept, you should have all permissions (to map on somebody's land; to use specific equipment from other Geology professors and from other departments, etc.). It may take months to get permission to enter private land, so you may have to work for 4 to 6 months before the deadline in order to get faculty signatures on time.

No faculty member is required to act as your sponsor. Some reasons why s/he might not are:

- You may not have had appropriate courses for the project (111 for a field mapping project; 102 for an igneous thin-section project).
- Your classroom performance may suggest that you are not capable of conducting or completing your proposal.
- You submitted the proposal too close to the deadline to permit the faculty member to evaluate it. Well in advance of any deadline, ask each faculty member how much time/he needs to evaluate your proposal. Your second reader will probably need at least one week to read your proposal.
- You have not secured permission to go on certain land or use specified equipment.
- You are asking the wrong faculty member to supervise your project.
- Your proposal is poorly written or incomplete.
- The faculty member may be going on leave or teaching an overload during the next semester, so s/he cannot accept the extra work of supervising a project.

The Project Proposal will be developed in your Geology 198A course and must contain the following information:

1. Description of project.

This should be a description of the project to be undertaken, including at least: What will be done (what data will be collected, how the data will be interpreted, etc.), where the project will be carried out, what equipment will be used and what supplies are necessary.

2. Name of the sponsoring faculty member who has agreed to supervise your project.

You must contact the faculty member before submitting the project. The faculty member will determine (in consultation with you) how often the two of you should meet, what preliminary reports will be required, when the project (or phases of the project) will be completed, and the criteria on which the grade will be based. Your agreed-upon deadlines should be written into your proposal.

3. Number of semester hours of credit you intend to register for.

This will normally be two semester hours.

4. Form of final report.

The final report will usually be a written report. One final copy of the report shall be submitted to the Geology Department to be filed in the library. A second copy will be kept by the supervising faculty member. A third copy is given to the second reader. Make a fourth copy if you would like one. In rare cases a map, or some other form of final report, may be acceptable to your supervisor. All senior research projects must be presented orally. It is your responsibility to schedule the Colloquium presentation.

5. Extent of prior research.

For mapping projects in California, a minimum literature search should include the following:

- Sources cited in the information sheets accompanying the geologic maps of the Geologic Atlas of California
- References cited in the Bibliography and Index of Geology for the last five years.
- Catalog listing publications of the California Division of Mines and Geology.
- Oral inquiries of appropriate faculty member and/or California Division of Mines and Geology personnel.

6. The project supervisor must be a full-time faculty member.

The supervisor normally will be the only one to read your final report and assign a grade. Project proposals must be approved by two faculty members.

POLICY ON GEOLOGY 198 COMPLETIONS

1. If a student is enrolled in Geology 198A or B he/she may withdraw and receive a W by withdrawing prior to the 10th week of class.
2. If a student does not withdraw from Geology 198A or B and fails to complete the project, an F or U grade will be assigned.
3. A student must be enrolled in Geology 198B during the semester he/she completes the research project and receives a grade. Either regular or open university enrollment is acceptable.
4. Incompletes will only be given under compelling circumstances (e.g. hospitalization, death in the family) that developed after the 10th week of the semester and prevented conclusion of a nearly completed project. Incompletes given would require a short and very specific time of completion (e.g. two weeks after leaving the hospital) approved in writing by the student's Geology 198B advisor (sponsor).

USE OF FACILITIES BY NON STUDENTS

In the event a person is using Geology Department equipment or facilities during a semester s/he is not enrolled as a student at the University, s/he must reimburse the Department for the use of the facilities according to a department-determined schedule and will be held financially accountable for the security and maintenance of laboratories and equipment used.

Geology 198B - Petition for Geology Senior Research Project

(to be completed during your Geology 198A course, the semester prior to enrolling in Geology 198B)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE # _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
STUDENT ID # _____
SEMESTER _____ YEAR _____ # OF UNITS _____

Preliminary Work:

During the semester prior to conducting your Geology 198B research:

1. Enroll in Geology 198A.
2. Read and understand the guidelines published by the Department and the syllabus for Geology 198A.
3. Decide on a possible problem/project.
4. Consult informally with an appropriate faculty member on the scope and content of your proposal.
5. Write a proposal. The final approved copy of the proposal completed during your Geology 198A course.

Checklist for the final copy of the proposal:

- ✓ The project has the oral approval of a sponsoring faculty member who has agreed to supervise the project.
- ✓ The proposal clearly states what I intend to accomplish.
- ✓ The proposal states what equipment and supplies are probably necessary to the project.
- ✓ Permissions for trespassing on land and use of Sac State equipment have been obtained.
- ✓ The proposal clearly describes the procedures I intend to use.
- ✓ The proposal states the form of the final report and establishes dates for submission of preliminary work as well as the final report.
- ✓ The pertinence of previous work is described.
- ✓ The proposal is clearly and concisely written, well organized, free of spelling and grammatical errors; double-spaced typed.
- ✓ References are properly cited according to the format specified by the supervising faculty.
- ✓ Two copies of the proposal and two copies of this form have been prepared.

The above has been fully accomplished to the best of my knowledge and ability:

Student's Signature _____ Date

I have read the proposal and agree that the above has been fully accomplished:

Signature of **Geology 198A Instructor** _____ Date

Signature of **Sponsoring Faculty** _____ Date

Signature of **2nd Faculty Sponsor (2nd Reader)** _____ Date

You must be enrolled (all approvals obtained and petition posted to CMS by the department secretary) in Geology 198B no later than Wednesday of the third week of classes. NO additions will be made after that date. This petition must be approved before the end of your Geology 198A course.