Steps to a MS degree in Geological Sciences

1. Identify a thesis advisor and topic
2. Complete any requirements to become a classified graduate student
3. Discuss with thesis advisor whether to implement Plan A (Thesis) or Plan B (Paper and Comprehensive Exam)

**PLAN A**

4. Complete an Official Program of Study form (see Official Program Link) following the Plan A option. Submit to department office. Once approved by Graduate Div., you have attained Advancement to Candidacy
5. Submit a 1-2 page Thesis/Paper Proposal which has been approved by your thesis advisor to the Department
6. Submit a Thesis Committee Form to Graduate Division. Two department faculty and one outside faculty
7. Sign up for 797 units – dept. form
8. Sign up for 799 during semester of final thesis submission to the library (schedule number from Graduate Division)
9. Final thesis to be defended in front of thesis committee and department
10. Submit formatted thesis to Thesis Review – signature page must be signed by committee members
11. Once approved by Library Reviewer, given credit for 799, graduate and thesis will be archived in the SDSU library.

**PLAN B**

4. Complete an Official Program of Study form (see Official Program Link) following the Plan B option. Submit to department office. Once approved by Graduate Div., you have attained Advancement to Candidacy
5. Submit a 1-2 page Thesis/Paper Proposal which has been approved by your thesis advisor to the Department
6. Submit department Plan B Committee Form to the department office. Two department faculty
7. Sign up for 797 units – dept. form
8. Sign up for 750 within one year of Plan B Defense
9. Final paper to be defended in front of department committee
10. Submit formatted paper and other Material (see Plan B Checklist link) – signature page must be signed by committee members
11. Once department chair has reviewed and approved all material, graduate division notified of passing comprehensive exam (Deadline- last day of classes). Paper archived in Department Office along with record of journal publication.