1. PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES

There are several deadlines that must be met for your application to be given full consideration. These deadlines are by far the most important thing to keep in mind when applying to Mines. For specific information about deadlines, visit: mines.edu/graduate-admissions/fall-deadlines

2. WHAT MATERIALS ARE NECESSARY?

- Application fee: There is a non-refundable application fee of either $60 USD or $75 USD depending on when you submit your application. The fee for international students is $80 USD.
- Transcripts: Transcripts are the best indicator of your ability to succeed academically. You must submit all transcripts from all previously attended institutions so the department’s admissions committee can view your academic history and how your education has advanced.
- Resume/CV: Your resume should contain a comprehensive list of your education, and professional experience.
- Important: Special trainings, publications, projects, internships, etc. should be included in your resume. Certificates (athletic, special trainings, internships etc.), published papers, etc. should not be submitted with your application packet. A current resume gives a prospective advisor a good understanding of what work you have engaged in and of your exposure to the minerals industry.
- Statement of Goals: The statement of goals is typically one to two pages in length. The purpose of this is to introduce you to the Graduate Admissions Review Committee. Your essay should cover the basics of your background and who you are. In the statement, you should address professional and personal goals, as well as why Mines would be the best place for you to achieve those goals. Why are you applying to Mines? What is your passion for geology? Why have you decided to leave your career and go back to school? What are you hoping to gain out of this program? Where do your ambitions lie? Why do you feel as though you will succeed? What are some professional challenges you have overcome to get where you are today? The application essay is to give the Graduate Admissions Review Committee a clear view of who you are and why you are applying to the Professional Master’s in Mineral Exploration program at Mines. Please also explain your level of experience.
- Three letters of recommendation: Letters from past professors and employers are preferred. Anyone who directly supervised your work and can attest to your professional or academic profile is best. Please do not have family members or personal references write letters of recommendation for your application. Family members usually cannot speak to your professional caliber in an unbiased manner. Mines never accepts letters of recommendation directly from the applicant. Letters must be submitted by your professional reference to the Mines Graduate School. The letters will be forwarded to the department after you have completed and submitted your application.

For more information about the application process, visit: mines.edu/graduate-admissions/faq

3. WHAT PROFICIENCY TESTS SHOULD I TAKE?

- The Geology and Geological Engineering Department only accepts the GRE test: The GRE test is offered in both computer and hard copy versions. It covers quantitative reasoning, analytical writing, verbal reasoning and research sections. The test is aimed at evaluating all disciplines and is used as a tool to evaluate many types of students applying for master’s graduate degree.
- What scores are needed? There is no minimum score that qualifies an applicant for acceptance. The applicant will need to demonstrate proficiency in the math, verbal and writing sections of the GRE. The proficiency exams become more important the longer an applicant has been out of school. It is recommended that the applicant take the exams sooner rather than later. The material may be increasingly difficult to recollect as time passes. The Graduate Admissions Review Committee will take the GRE into account when evaluating the application as a whole.
- What level of English is required to apply (for international applicants)? The department accepts and TOEFL or IELTS scores. Mines applicants must be able to pass either the TOEFL or IELTS exam to prove proficiency in English. This basic level of English proficiency ensures that a communication barrier does not exist between professors, staff and students. It is important for students at Mines to have a firm grasp on the English language to ensure academic success. All classes are taught in English. A minimum level of communication skill in English is essential to transfer ideas and complete assignments at Mines.
- Where can I take proficiency exams? It is important to note that some countries do not (or seldom) administer proficiency exams. If an applicant cannot find a testing location near or inside their home country, special arrangements are possible to satisfy the requirements. Any special arrangements must be approved by the department. Contact the program director for details. An applicant may provide credible references or letters of reference that confirm his/her understanding of material covered in the GRE. TOEFL or IELTS must be taken before admission is granted. There are no exceptions for this requirement.
- How can applicants prepare for exams? There are many online- and classroom-based prep courses that can be helpful to applicants. However, Mines does not offer programs to prepare students for the TOEFL, IELTS and GRE. If a student chooses to enroll in preparatory course, they must do so at their own expense.
4. ARE THERE RESOURCES TO HELP ASSIST IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS?
• The Graduate School’s website contains an abundance of information on this topic. To get an idea of what the application process requires from an administrative perspective, visit: mines.edu/graduate-admissions/application-process.
• For information about International Student and Scholar Services, visit: mines.edu/isss.

5. WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT TO INVEST FINANCIALLY?
• For information about estimated costs of attendance for international, out-of-state and in-state students, visit the graduate school’s web page: mines.edu/graduate-admissions/costs. This link has additional information regarding financing your education and estimating your cost of attendance. Estimates should be viewed as minimum cost of attendance and should be evaluated as such. Although Golden is a small city, cost of living is fairly high compared to other parts of the country. We encourage you to do your own research on what your expected costs of living will be.
• The school will not typically provide funding for incoming students in the Professional Master’s in Mineral Exploration program. It is the applicant’s responsibility to secure funding for tuition, room and board, meals and recreation for the duration of the program. The sources of funding can vary, but usually come from either personal capital, student loans, scholarships or employer-funded tuition.
  i. If the student’s tuition is funded by an employer, it is an agreement between student and employer that does not involve Mines. Hence, if the employer rescinds funding it will be the student’s responsibility provide funds through different means to finish the program.
  ii. Fellowships, scholarships and grants are an excellent way to fund your education. The links below provide information on some opportunities available to students in the program.
   Possible grants: finaid.mines.edu/grants
   Fellowships by the Society of Economic Geologists: segweb.org/SEG/Students/Graduate_Student_Fellowship_Program/SEG/_Students/Graduate_Student_Fellowship_Program.aspx
   Scholarships by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration: smenet.org/students/grants-scholarships

6. ABOUT THE PROFESSIONAL MASTER’S IN MINERAL EXPLORATION PROGRAM
• General information: Admission to this program is generally restricted to individuals holding a four-year undergraduate degree in earth sciences. Candidates for the Professional Master’s degree in Mineral Exploration must have completed the following or equivalent subjects, for which credit toward the advanced degree will not be granted. These are general geology, structural geology, field geology, mineralogy, petrology, chemistry (2 semesters), mathematics (2 semesters of calculus), physics (1 semester) and an additional science course other than geology.
• Industry experience: Please note that admission to the program is competitive. Preference will be given to applicants with a minimum of two years of industrial or equivalent experience. This program is intended to bolster a student’s industry knowledge and education. The applicant will complete a non-thesis, master’s degree that is designed for working professionals who want to increase their knowledge and skills, while gaining a thorough update of advances across the spectrum of economic geology, mineral exploration techniques and mining geosciences.
• How long does the Professional Master’s degree program take to complete? The program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours. A minimum of 15 credit hours must be accumulated in five of the following core areas: mineral deposits, mineral exploration, applied geophysics, applied geochemistry, applied structural geology, petrology, field geology, and economic evaluation. An additional 15 credit hours may be selected from the course offerings of the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering and allied departments including Mining Engineering, Economics and Business, Geophysics, Chemistry and Geochemistry, Metallurgy and Materials Science and Environmental Sciences.

The program is self-paced and can be completed while the student works part time. The degree is designed to be completed in two semesters with a full course load. Selection of courses will be undertaken in consultation with an academic advisor. Up to 9 credit hours may be at the 400-level. All other credits toward the degree must be 500-level or above. A maximum of 9 credit hours may be independent study focusing on a topic relevant to the mineral exploration and mining industries.