



Do you wish to be considered for a graduate assistantship (GA) position (select neither, one, or both as your interest dictates):

Graduate Assistantship in Teaching? \_\_\_ Graduate Assistantship in Research? \_\_\_

If so, what prior experience do you have for these positions?

Although not required for admission, please provide the names of any Midwestern State geoscience faculty members with whom you are interested in doing thesis research.

Additionally, please indicate potential areas of thesis research of interest to you (check all that apply).

Petroleum geology	Sedimentology/Stratigraphy	Paleontology
Hydrogeology	Geospatial Analysis/GIS	Computational Geosciences
Tectonics	Geophysics	Environmental Geosciences
Igneous Petrology	High-temperature Geochemistry	Other

If other, please describe:

Also not required for admission, but if you have a specific research project in mind, please describe it below.

**Letters of Reference**

Please ask at least **three** persons to provide letters of reference and list each below. They may use the MSU Geosciences Recommendation Form and/or compose a separate letter. At least two references should be someone familiar with your academic background and capabilities. **All letters of reference should be sent directly to the Admissions Office** (admissions@msutexas.edu) by the individual making the recommendation.

The names, titles, and mail and email addresses of at least three references.

Name	Title	Address	Email

Please complete four short essays that explains your interest and ability for the M.S. program at Midwestern State University.

**1. What motivates you to apply for our program?**

Graduate school is a multiyear commitment to learning and to a research project. The decision to attend graduate school is a major step in your career. Please tell us what motivates you to go to graduate school and why you think the Kimbell School of Geosciences Department at is where you would like to go?

**2. Tell us about your perseverance and maturity.**

Completing graduate-level coursework, independent study, and research requires perseverance in handling deadlines, challenges, and failures along the way. Briefly describe a challenging time (one where you did not fully succeed in achieving a goal or completing a task) and describe how you responded to that and what you learned from that experience. Then, briefly describe an experience where you struggled through a challenging time but eventually succeeded. What helped you get through that struggle and the stress associated with it?

### **3. Tell us about how you work in teams.**

As a graduate student, your research will involve working as a team with your advisor and other collaborators. Think about a past experience being part of a team (academic or extra-curricular), and please answer the following questions:

What role(s) did you play on the team (leader, synthesizer, heavy-lifter, etc.) that contributed to its success?

What did you learn about successful teamwork and/or team culture through the experience?

**4. Tell us about your independence, curiosity and problem-solving skills.**

Conducting research as a graduate student requires curiosity in developing a question or hypothesis and independence along with creative problem-solving in conducting self-directed research. Please describe a time when you took initiative on something, either academic or outside of academics, that highlights some of these qualities.