Graduate research is a “process” that includes:

1) Identifying a reasonably sized geo-science related problem (esoteric, applied or pedagogical) in collaboration with your advisor and thesis committee.

2) Reviewing the literature associated with the problem.

3) Developing a proposal that outlines the problem including:
   - a problem statement
   - an introduction and background literature review that motivates the significance of the problem
   - a hypothesis or question
   - research objectives including experimental methodologies
   - a timeline for the required tasks
   - expected outcomes

4) Seeking research funding by submitting an abridged version of your proposal to an external funding agency such as GSA or AAPG and internally to RSP and the Geology Department.

5) Soliciting department input by presenting your proposal ideas to the department using PowerPoint in a seminar setting.

6) Developing an experimental design and learning the tools required to collect the data that address the problem.

7) Collecting and documenting data (field, lab experiments, numerical experiments, pedagogical observations).

8) Analyzing data.

9) Organizing and interpreting the results.

10) Writing a thesis (traditional or journal article format) that clearly summarizes the collective study.

11) Presenting the results to the department and at professional meetings.