The Middle Tennessee State University Department of Geosciences advances our understanding of Earth as a dynamic and complex system, its past and present evolution; examines the human impact and implications of global change; and educates the next generation of scientists, researchers, teachers, policy makers, entrepreneurs, and environmental professionals.

The Department of Geosciences follows a holistic approach to science education. The faculty believes that graduates with a well-rounded education are best prepared to solve the many complex problems of energy and the environment which mankind faces in the twenty-first century. MTSU Geoscience students follow a rigorous academic pathway of geoscience, chemistry, biology, mathematics and physics courses, but also complete coursework in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Many geoscience students take classes in the College of Business and the College of Communications in preparation for professional careers.

BY THE NUMBERS: 2019-2020

150 Undergraduate student majors
15 Graduate student majors
10 Faculty

Located in newly renovated classrooms, teaching labs, research labs, and student study areas in Davis Science Building.

Small student to faculty mentor Ratio (15:1); assigned faculty mentor to each Geosciences major

Two undergraduate majors: Geoscience, Environmental Science

Six undergraduate career tracks: Geology, Earth Science, Physical Geography, Geographic Information Systems/Remote Sensing, Earth Science for Teachers

Two graduate paths: a traditional thesis-based research path and a pre-professional internship-based path.

Specialized labs: GIS/Remote Sensing, Hydrology, Geomorphology, Paleontology, Geochemistry

Recent alumni graduate school placements: Cornell, Michigan Tech, Missouri, Memphis, MTSU, Notre Dame, Utah State, Vanderbilt

Recent alumni employment placements: environmental consulting, regional and urban planning, resource management, mining, oil and gas exploration.

Above: MTSU Geoscience students enjoying a hike into Grand Canyon while on a geology field trip.
DEGREE PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE
The Department of Geosciences offers a Bachelor of Science with a major in Geosciences or Environmental Science, and concentrations in Geology, Physical Geography.

GRADUATE
The Department offers a Masters of Science in Geosciences with two paths, a traditional thesis-based path and a pre-professional internship-based path.

FACILITIES

TEACHING
Classroom, laboratory, and field-based curriculum covering the solid Earth, oceans, atmosphere, physical geography, geographic information systems, and remote sensing; extensive collection of fossils, rocks and minerals from all over the world; departmental computer labs with modern geoscience-specific software; low student to faculty ratio.

RESEARCH
Geospatial Research Center offers cutting-edge capabilities in geographic information systems and remote sensing applications. Modern laboratory instrumentation and field equipment for applied and basic research in geology. High student participation rate in faculty-directed research.

FIELD TRIPS

Above: A MTSU Geoscience student visits ancient volcanoes in the Cascade Range.

Field trips are an essential part of the learning process in the Department of Geosciences. Faculty regularly lead students on weekend field trips throughout the southeastern United States. During these trips students study the geologic history of their field areas and learn important field skills such as geoscience data collection and interpretation, synthesizing geological histories, report writing and geologic mapping. In addition to weekend fieldtrips, the Department of Geosciences offers extended summer field courses in Colorado, the Southwest, and the Pacific Northwest.

Co-Curricular Activities

MTSU Geoscience students have opportunities to participate in many co-curricular activities, including student organizations, pre-professional internships, faculty-directed research, and study abroad. As a diverse institution, MTSU offers its students many opportunities to meet and take classes with students of other cultures from all over the world.

MTSU Geosciences
21st Century Solutions for a 46-Million Centuries Old Planet