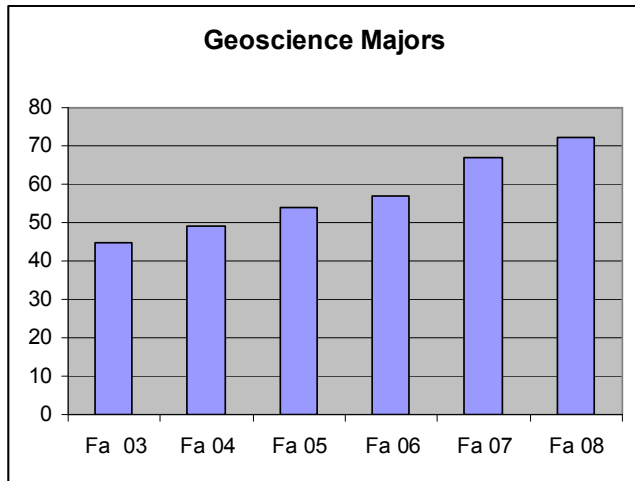


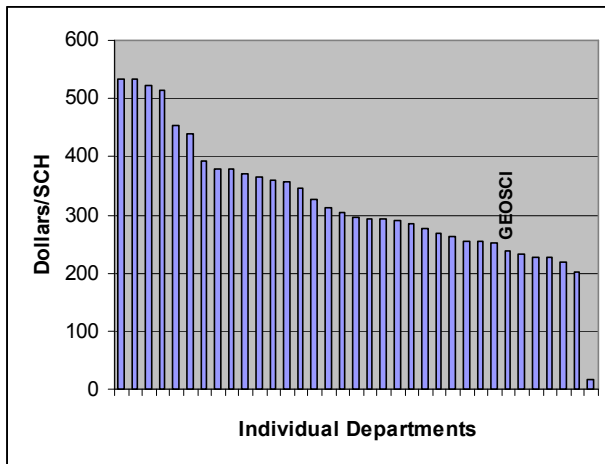
Fact Sheet - MTSU Department of Geosciences

- **Degrees Offered.** The Department offers a BS degree with a major in Geosciences.
- **MTSU Geosciences is the largest undergraduate geosciences department in Tennessee.** As of March 2009, the Department has 75 majors. (U of Memphis - 49; ETSU - 54; TTU - 57; APSU - 72; UT-K geology -70 graduate + undergraduate)

- **Over 60% Increase in Geosciences Majors in the Last 5 Years.** The MTSU Office of Institutional Effectiveness reports:
1) Geosciences minority enrollment has doubled since Fall Semester, 2004; and 2) thirty percent of Geosciences majors are women. The overall growth in majors reflects high-demand in the geosciences job market, especially in energy and environment sectors.



- **National Core Academic Program.** Thirty-four of MTSU's thirty-seven Market Study Peer Institutions offer Geosciences as a major.



- **Extremely Cost Effective.** The Department annually brings in 2 million tuition dollars, yet costs the University 1 to 1.3 million in operating funds, salaries, and benefits. The Department has one of the lowest dollars per student credit hour costs of all MTSU academic departments.
- **Strong General Education and Outreach Emphasis.** Annually, 2,700 students enroll in the Department's general education courses, reflecting student interest in natural disasters,

energy, and the environment. The Department has the only Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Museum at any state institution; thousands of teachers and K-12 students visit annually. The faculty participates in numerous programs (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Women in Science and Engineering, Expanding Your Horizons, Girls Raised in Tennessee Science, Science Olympiad) for outreach and recruitment from underrepresented groups.

- **Strong Record of External Funding.** Geosciences faculty and students have been awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants from many agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the US Agency for International Development. Currently, the faculty has over \$800,000 in grants pending.

- **Strong Interdisciplinary Component.** The Geographic Information Sciences laboratory is utilized by students and faculty in both MTSU liberal arts and natural science departments. Geology courses and research labs are utilized by students and faculty from natural science and engineering departments at both MTSU and other mid-state universities, including Vanderbilt.
- **Strong International Focus.** The Geosciences is a global discipline. Twenty percent of MTSU faculty members are from overseas. The faculty has obtained \$450,000 in grants for Africa programs.
- **Strong Student-Centered Learning Focus.** The Department has a dynamic undergraduate research program. Students have received research support from the National Science Foundation and NASA, and have represented MTSU at research conferences across the country. Geosciences field courses are taught throughout North America.
- **Not Listed as a TBR Low Producing Program.** The Department has produced an average of at least ten Geosciences graduates per year over the past ten years.
- **National Honor Society Chapter Award.** MTSU Geosciences is the only TBR institution to be awarded a chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the national Earth sciences honor society.
- **Highly Respected by National Research Universities.** MTSU Geosciences graduates are routinely awarded graduate research and teaching fellowships at nationally recognized graduate research universities, such as Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Syracuse, and Georgia Tech. MTSU Geosciences alumni have earned PhDs, and are employed as both college faculty and government agency researchers.

