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: 2015-2016

13 Faculty
100 Undergraduate Students
20 Graduate Students
84% six-year student retention rate
Two undergraduate concentrations: Geology and Physical Geography
Five undergraduate career tracks: Geology, Earth Science, Physical Geography, Geographic Techniques (Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing), Earth Science for Teachers
Three graduate academic emphasis areas: Geographic Information Systems, Environmental Geosystems, Geoscience
100% graduate student job placement rate.

Only chapter of National Earth Science Honor Society in the Tennessee Board of Regents system. First student Chapter of the American Institute of Professional Geologists in Tennessee

Above: MTSU Geoscience student conducting field research in a glacial terrain on Mt. Rainier volcano, Washington.
DEGREE PROGRAMS

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

GRADUATE
The Department offers a Geosciences concentration in the Masters of Science in Professional Sciences, with emphasis areas in Geographic Information Systems, Environmental Geosystems, and general Geoscience.

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: MTSU Geoscience students visit the Mt. St. Helens volcano crater.

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 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