

MU Geological Sciences Highlights

Graduate Program:

- Our graduate students work at the frontiers of knowledge, conduct fieldwork around the world, and do lab research using cutting-edge techniques both at MU and with a global network of collaborators. In classes, we focus on training students to think critically, to analyze and solve problems using computers or with pencil and paper, as well as providing deep content knowledge. The department provides support both financially, and through thoughtful advising. Our M.S. and Ph.D. graduates have an excellent record of successful careers in industry, academia, and state and federal government.
- Our department is big enough to be comprehensive but small enough to be friendly, with about 30 grad students and 12 faculty. All grads are members of the MU Geology Graduate Society (MUGGS), which organizes grant applications for conference travel, and a grad student Research Forum. Many are also members of the AAPG-AEG chapter, which travels to monthly meetings with practicing geoscientists in St. Louis, and provides other means of networking and support for research and conference attendance.
- We have a tradition of very strong alumni support, allowing us to disburse over \$70,000 in scholarship support per year to graduate students with a GPA ≥ 3.0 . Academic year scholarships for TA's in 2017-2018 will be \$500-\$800 for M.S. and \$2200-\$2500 for Ph.D. students. In addition we guarantee scholarship equivalent to 1.5 months of summer support, with the aim of ensuring that all students have 12 months of support available. Many graduate students are also recipients of competitive university-wide fellowships.
- In 2015-16, our graduate students gave 17 talks at national and international conferences, with a further 18 poster presentations, and published 15 first-authored papers in leading journals. The Department pays registration fees for all students attending AGU / GSA national meetings, and for any other conference where the student is presenting. The Department also subsidizes conference travel expenses.
- Many of our Ph.D. students complete a Graduate Minor in College teaching alongside their major in Geological Sciences. This unusual program leads to our graduates being exceptionally well prepared to go straight into a faculty position.
- Our MS alumni mainly go in three directions: employment as environmental geologists, often staying in-state; employment with the oil and gas industry, primarily out of state; and PhD programs, at universities all over the country.
- Our PhD alumni are now faculty at public and private colleges and universities around the country and abroad, including Cal State Bakersfield (CA), Illinois State (IL), Bates College (ME), Central Michigan (MI), Missouri State (MO), SUNY Potsdam (NY), Sam Houston State (TX), and UNA (Costa Rica). Others are now postdocs at NASA, or at universities in the US, UK, Australia, Switzerland, etc, and some are in industry.
- For examples of current student research projects, see the graduate student profiles. For past MS thesis and PhD dissertation titles, please see our alumni newsletters.