

Request for Increased Differential Tuition  
**Texas A&M University**  
College of Geosciences Differential Tuition Rate  
Effective Fall 2018

I. Programmatic justification and proposed use of the increased differential tuition

The funds obtained from this increased differential tuition proposal will be used to enhance the quality of 100 and 200 level courses, with the aim of exceeding current standards. We will utilize the funds to enhance our undergraduate courses in the areas of critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative skills, and social responsibility. This will include enhancements in the areas of innovation, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information, while providing opportunities for students to experience and challenge themselves in the area of intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and opportunities for them to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Prospective employers expect Texas A&M Geosciences students to graduate with these skills and knowledge. The increase in differential tuition will ensure that all geoscience majors will have an opportunity to participate in these enhanced introductory classes and field experiences. Providing these opportunities will come in the form of enhanced and upgraded teaching laboratories and classes, with additional experiences through in class and online learning activities. With each additional cohort we will be able to provide additional support for field experiences for all undergraduate students. Enhancing the quality of our 100 and 200 level courses is highly complementary to our past efforts supporting field experiences and study abroad programming to all our undergraduate students.

Specifically, funds will be used to support Graduate Teaching Assistants to support faculty in leading our 100 and 200 level courses, field and study experiences for majors, as well as increasing the instructor to student ratio to ensure program effectiveness and safety as well as allowing instructors to add enhanced exercises in laboratories and classes. Additionally, these resources will offset operating costs associated with enhanced exercises, field trip travel costs and expendable field supplies, and faculty support needed to lead additional study abroad and field programs.

The College of Geosciences is proposing to increase the differential tuition by \$150 per semester to ensure that all geoscience undergraduate majors have high quality introductory level courses that support lifetime learning and skills desired by future employers. Even with the proposed increase, the tuition and fees paid by students in the College of Geosciences will be less than is paid by students in comparable geosciences programs at the University of Texas. See table provided in section IV of this document.

II. Public hearing and/or student referendum requirements

We plan to hold a public hearing in late September 2017 to discuss these initiatives with the College of Geosciences undergraduate student population. An email will be sent to all Geosciences students providing summary information about the change proposal and announcing a general student hearing. A website reference will be included in the email to provide more detailed information about the proposed changes to the assessment model and associated justifications. Additionally, the proposal will be shared with the Executive Committee of the college's student council. Announcements about the student hearing will

be posted throughout the Geosciences academic buildings on display monitors and bulletin boards in advance of the hearing date.

III. Budget impact if increase in differential tuition request is not approved

Without an increase, the College of Geosciences will not be able to offer as many course enhancements at the 100 and 200 levels and additional field experiences with each additional cohort. As a result, our students will lag behind other geoscience programs in the State of Texas and nationally with respect to field experiences for our students that industry has come to expect and require of graduates.

In order to stay competitive, Geosciences must provide additional courses and high-impact program enhancements demanded by high-achieving students and offered in other top geosciences schools. Geosciences programs nation-wide are changing and improving at a rapid pace. Without additional revenues Geosciences will be unable to innovate and generate premier graduates with the field experiences required for industry careers.

IV. Justification for ending balance

A small carryover balance may exist from year to year. These balances are set aside to supplement the following year's operational and salary costs. There may also be an occasion where a reserve is created for facility enhancements and equipment purchases since the timing of these expenditures cannot be easily predicted and several terms may be required to accumulate funding to purchase costly field and laboratory equipment. Otherwise, no ending balances are expected.

V. Additional information

Below is an annual cost of tuition comparison table for the Geosciences between the University of Texas and Texas A&M University. Texas A&M University Geosciences students can expect to pay \$538 less for each year in attendance than their counterparts at the University of Texas.

<b>University</b>	<b>TAMU Geosciences Proposed Increase Per Semester</b>	<b>Total Annual Tuition and Fee Cost</b>
UT Austin-Geosciences		\$11,546
TAMU Geosciences - Proposed	\$150	\$11,008
<b>TAMU Average - All Colleges</b>		<b>\$11,031</b>