



## **WHAT IS DIFFERENTIAL TUITION FOR STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF GEOSCIENCES?**

Differential tuition is an additional charge that is currently used to pay for:

- Enhancements and upgrades to undergraduate teaching laboratories and classes with a focus on updating technology
- Additional instructors to support course offerings and undergraduate participation in high impact learning experiences
- Support for field experiences such as Field Camp for Geology and Geophysics

The College of Geosciences is proposing to increase the differential tuition to \$394.39 per semester. The current rate is \$244.39. This increase impacts only NEW Geosciences students enrolling for the first time in Fall 2018 semester or later. **\*\*Current Geosciences students are not impacted by this increase.\*\***

The College of Geosciences is proposing to increase the differential tuition to \$394.39 per semester 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. 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. 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 geoscience programs across the country.

Examples of the field experiences that have been supported by differential tuition include shipboard measurements in the Gulf of Mexico, hydrologic measurements in the rainforests of Costa Rica, launching of weather balloons and mapping the geology of the western United States as part of field camp.

### **WHY DOES THE COLLEGE OF GEOSCIENCES WANT TO INCREASE DIFFERENTIAL TUITION?**

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.

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 the skills and experiences expected by prospective employers.

### **WHO PAYS DIFFERENTIAL TUITION?**

Each semester all undergraduate students in the College of Geosciences are charged a differential tuition rate of \$244.39. We are proposing to increase the differential tuition to \$394.39 per semester.

This increase impacts only NEW Geosciences students enrolling for the first time in Fall 2018 semester or later. **\*\*Current Geosciences students are not impacted by this increase.\*\***

### **HOW DO I PROVIDE INPUT REGARDING DIFFERENTIAL TUITION?**

We would like to hear your input regarding differential tuition. Please send your comments to [cbrannstrom@tamu.edu](mailto:cbrannstrom@tamu.edu) and come to our differential tuition hearing on Friday September 29, 2017 between 3 and 4 pm in O&M 203.