Geoscience is the study of the Earth and includes the fields of geology, geophysics and environmental science. Volcanoes, earthquakes, floods, landslides and plate tectonics are some of the things that geoscientists investigate and try to understand.

Geophysics is a more quantitative and instrument-oriented discipline that investigates the Earth’s internal structure and processes by studying seismic waves and variations in our planet’s magnetic and gravitational fields as well as its rotation.

Saint Louis University’s department of Earth and atmospheric sciences has a tradition of combining strong classroom and field-based instruction with internationally recognized research across a broad spectrum of the physical sciences, including seismology and solid earth geophysics, tectonics, synoptic meteorology, environmental systems, earth surface processes, fluvial processes, coastal morphodynamics and the study of modern and ancient climate change.

SLU’s geophysics department was the first established in the western hemisphere, and its past and present faculty include scientists and researchers who have made fundamental contributions to the fields of seismology and geophysics.

About the Faculty
Faculty teaching in the geoscience program are devoted to the training of students in the classroom, laboratory and field. Faculty are also involved in research in Antarctica, Asia, South America and North America. They bring these experiences back into the classroom to enrich student learning.

Program Overview
Geophysics is a more quantitative and instrument-oriented discipline that investigates the Earth’s internal structure and processes by studying seismic waves and variations in our planet’s magnetic and gravitational fields as well as its rotation.

Curriculum
Students in the geophysics program are given a firm foundation in solid Earth science taking courses in mineralogy, petrology (the study of rocks) and structural geology. Upper level geophysics courses, with an emphasis on seismology, build on this foundation and ensure students are well prepared for graduate school or work in industry.

Undergraduates in the geophysics program have opportunities to work with geophysics faculty on their research, thus providing students with solid practical experience that prepares them for their post-graduate careers.
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

Students in the department may have the opportunity for part-time work assisting faculty members with their research. Such jobs expose students to various aspects of science as well as provide them with some income. Other part-time jobs may also be available elsewhere in the University. The city of St. Louis provides opportunities for science-related volunteer work in places such as the Saint Louis Science Center and the Saint Louis Zoo.

A degree in the geosciences prepares students for a variety of interesting careers. Many geoscientists work in industry or for government agencies concerned with oil and natural gas exploration and production, mining, water resources, civil engineering, waste and pollution management, environmental impact assessment, conservation and land management, policy analysis, and implementation education. Students in our program also acquire a solid background in critical thinking, effective communication and computer use.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

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Contact

Graduate Programs

+ Master of Arts (M.S.) in geophysics
+ Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in geophysics
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x84990.xml.

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