



4220 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302-1502
703-379-2480;
Fax: 703-379-7563
www.agiweb.org

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Contact: Cindy Martinez
E-mail: cmm@agiweb.org

Introductory Geoscience Enrollments in the United States

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American Geological Institute (AGI) has released a report on the state of introductory geoscience enrollment in the United States during the 2003-2004 academic year. Typically, introductory courses are viewed as one of the major recruitment tools for the field of geosciences. This survey was intended to establish a baseline metric of enrollments in general geoscience courses and how they translate into recruitment of majors.

Conducted between October 2004 and February 2005, the survey was sent to 676 geoscience departments to determine the numbers of students enrolled in various categories of introductory geoscience courses during the 2003-2004 academic year. The report also provides a breakdown of enrollment numbers by subject area and department characteristics. It also offers a look at the traditional view of introductory geoscience classes as an avenue for the recruitment of majors, of which no significant relationship was demonstrable. This report is available in PDF format on AGI's Career Information Web site at <http://www.earthscienceworld.org/careers/>.

Questions about this survey or AGI's Disciplinary Health program, can be directed to Cindy Martinez at cmm@agiweb.org.

The American Geological Institute is a nonprofit federation of 42 scientific and professional associations that represent more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in our profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources and interaction with the environment. More information about AGI can be found at <http://www.agiweb.org>.

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