

## **WOU Earth Science Program Student Demographics**

Our student population is quite diverse with a wide array of skills, interests, and career goals. The student population ranges from serious Earth Science majors with focused career objectives, to Environmental Studies minors to Science Education majors. The annual number of majors and minors in the Earth Science program ranges from 25 to 40, with over 1500 students tracking through the LACC ES100 sequence. Over 60% of the ES 100 students are in their freshman or sophomore years, and commonly list their major as “pre-education”. Typical enrollment in upper division specialty courses typically ranges from 8-15, with 25 to 60 in more accessible lower division courses (e.g. ES200 Physical / Historical Geology, ES331 Oceanography, ES390 Meteorology).

Based on enrollment data from 2002-2005, the Earth Science program supports an average of 37 majors and 13 minors, with a range of 6-12 graduates per year. Demographically, our students are categorically white/Caucasian, 20-24 years of age, with a female-to-male ratio of 1:3. Preliminary analysis of select course data from 1999-2005 (Dr. Taylor upper division class rosters; n = 176) indicates that approximately 75% of our upper division students are declared Earth Science majors and minors. The remaining 25% are working on graduate education degrees, free electives, and ancillary minors such as Environmental Studies. Approximately 3 percent of the declared majors advance on to graduate school in either education or geoscience. Over 20 percent of the same group obtained employment as K-12 teachers, and approximately 12 percent found at least temporary employment in the fields of geospatial technology or natural resources management (GIS, forestry, geotechnical, watershed).