

WOU Earth Science Program

Projections and Vision for the Future

- Hiring of tenure-track physical science education specialist, with cross-over linkages to Earth system science.
- Continue external grant writing endeavors for Earth Science curriculum development, research initiatives, and infrastructure improvement
- Actively engage undergraduate Earth Science students in research projects
- Continue to develop service learning, professional outreach, and applied research projects (e.g. outreach to Luckiamute Watershed Council, coordination of Oregon Junior Academy-JSHS-ISEF science fairs)
- Continue development of faculty-student research opportunities and internships; ultimately adopt a senior thesis option based on CUR and PURE principles
- Further develop interdisciplinary program linkages via ESI and environmental studies
- Utilizing the WOU Environmental Science Institute as a means of attracting external funds to the Earth Science Program
- Continue to develop field-based and technology-enriched learning experiences
- Need to redefine linkages between the WOU Earth Science Program and Teacher Education / Science and Math Education programs (e.g. actively promote the MAT program as a fifth-year augmentation to the B.S. Earth Science degree)
- Increase no. of majors by 15%; increase and stabilize enrollment in upper division courses to 10-12
- Projections and visions for future: as with university at large, need to stabilize enrollments in majors and upper division courses. We've been averaging 25 majors, would like to grow that to an average of 40, ranging from 35 to 45. Would like to stabilize numbers in upper division courses in the 10-15 range, with average of 12 /section... ideal given limited facilities/space, lab-based rigor of program, field trip opportunities. Graduate a steady 5-10 majors per year, with an average of 8.
- Stabilize linkage to Physics / science education
- Continue to develop and implement the use of Senior Seminar (ES 407) as capstone course for Earth Science major
- Adopt the Oregon State Geologist Examiners Board geology basics exam as a standardized assessment tool for graduating seniors
- Continue to develop individual course projects that emphasize multimedia presentation, content interpretation, and problem solving as class assessment tools