Master’s Degrees in Geoscience

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Geoscience Master’s Overview

• Degree of choice for practitioners
• Is ‘it’ desirable?
  – BS: Few career advancement opportunities
  – Ph.D.: Only needed in advanced research
• 99.5% employment upon graduation
• 82% of MS programs focus on Ph.D. preparation, yet….
• Only 28% go on to Ph.D. program
U.S. Geoscience Enrollments (1955-2007)

Source: AGI Geoscience Workforce Program, data derived from AGI's Directory of Geoscience Departments
Bachelor's Degree Fields of Terminal Geoscience Master's and Doctoral Degree Recipients (2003)

Source: AGI Geoscience Workforce Program, data derived from NSF/SRS NSCG, 2003
Percentage of Geoscience Degrees Conferred to Women (1990-2007)

Source: AGI Geoscience Workforce Program
Geoscience Degree Completion Rates and the Price of Oil (1973-2007)

Source: AGI Geoscience Workforce Program, data derived from AGI's Directory of Geoscience Departments, and http://inflationdata.com/inflation/Inflation_Rate/Historical_Oil_Prices_Table.asp
Student-to-Professional Transition

Major Sectors of Employment

Source: AGI Geoscience Workforce Program, data derived from AGI/AGU Surveys of New Geoscience Masters and Ph.D.'s
### Geoscience Workforce

#### Starting Salaries for New Geoscience Master's, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oil &amp; Gas</td>
<td>$81,300</td>
<td>$82,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>$47,500</td>
<td>$45,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>$46,200</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Starting Salaries for New Geoscience Ph.D.'s, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postdoc-Academia</td>
<td>$43,100</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoc-Government</td>
<td>$55,200</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentially Permanent - Academia</td>
<td>$51,900</td>
<td>$52,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>$72,500</td>
<td>$71,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AGI Geoscience Workforce Program, data derived from AGI/AGU Surveys of New Geoscience Masters and Ph.D.'s
Degree-Granting Diversity

BS BS BS
MS MS MS
Ph.D. Ph.D. Ph.D.

100 Departments

- Departments granting over 25% of all degrees
- Departments granting the second quartile of all degrees
- Departments granting the second half of all degrees