

College of Geosciences Signature Research Programs

The mission of the College of Geosciences is to advance new understandings of the Earth System and apply them to the needs of society, to prepare the next generation of geoscientists to conduct research, to find and develop natural resources, and to measure and respond to environmental change. In doing so, the college advances our understanding of Earth processes and their influences on and from the human dimension.

The College of Geosciences seeks to identify its signature research programs in order to attract greater outside recognition for our scientific contributions and achievements. Signature programs are those deserving of special recognition for their outstanding contributions either to solving society's grand challenges such as global climate change, air and water quality, and adequate energy and food supplies or to fundamental discoveries about the Earth System.

Normally, these programs are distinguished by:

- The significance of their impact, where impact may be defined in terms of:
 - Contributions to fundamental scientific discoveries;
 - Benefits to the quality of life, the environment, and/or the economy
 - Elevating Texas A&M's international prominence,
 - The ways they inform decision-making by government or industry at state, national and international levels
- Collaboration of an interdisciplinary team, including national or international partners,
- Education of the next generation of geoscientists through research, practical experience and service,
- Demonstrable longevity,
- Substantial external funding.

Benefits of the Designation

- A *Signature Program* designation enables the Communications office to highlight the College's distinctive contributions, expertise, and impact. These, in turn, elevate recruitment of high quality students, our fundraising potential, public awareness of our work, our credibility, and our rankings
- Leaders of signature programs will receive extra help in the following areas, all of which will lead to substantial increases in the visibility of their programs.
 - Design of printed materials, website presence, with distinctive branding within the College's brand guidelines,
 - Strategic marketing support

- Development of presentations, fundraising proposals and press releases

Identification Process

- The Associate Dean for Research will hold an annual call for nominations.
- Any faculty member or research scientist may nominate a program by submitting a packet with the attached nomination form as a cover page.
- Signature programs will be designated by the College Executive Committee on the basis of materials in the nomination packets
- Normally there will be 6-12 such programs.

Renewal Process

- Programs will be assessed every three years by the College Executive committee using the distinguishing criteria outlined above.

**Signature Research Program
Nomination Form**

<i>Name of Research Program:</i>
<i>List of contributing program members (Include CV):</i>
<i>Impact of program on state of Texas, nation and/or world:</i>
<i>Alignment of program with College of Geosciences strategic plan:</i>
<i>The interdisciplinary nature of the program team:</i>
<i>The national and/or international partnership and specific roles and responsibilities of partners:</i>
<i>The program's long term (5 year) aspirations:</i>
<i>Student research engagement in program:</i>
<i>Duration of the program and an estimate of total research expenditures</i>