Program in Water Resources

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The interdisciplinary program in Water resources is administered by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

The Water Resources Program offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Water Resources with the ability to complete a concurrent M.S./J.D. in 4 years and a Ph.D./J.D. in 6 years. The three program option areas are Water Resources Engineering & Science, Water Resources Science & Management, and Water Resources Law, Management & Policy. The program trains students to address complex water resources issues by building disciplinary depth in concert with multidisciplinary breadth to understand focused problems and communicate across disciplines.

The Water Resources Program enjoys university-wide participation and forms a coordinated effort that provides interdisciplinary study options in water resources. Participants are drawn from the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), Business and Economics (CBE), Engineering (ENG), Law, (LAW), Science (COS), Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS), and Natural Resources (CNR). The Program includes faculty from the Moscow campus, and Boise, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls and Coeur d’Alene/Post Falls Centers. Water Resources faculty collaborate with the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute and faculty at the Boise State University, Idaho State University and Washington State University.

Graduate Degree Programs

Students in the Water Resources Program must meet the general requirements set forth by the College of Graduate Studies (see Part Four) for the M.S. or Ph.D. degrees with the following exceptions. The degree of M.S. in Water Resources requires 24 credits of course work and completion of a thesis, equivalent to a minimum of 6 credits of Research and Thesis, for a total of 30 credits (note for transfers: an M.S. student must complete at least 18 of the total 30 required credits at the University of Idaho while matriculated in the College of Graduate Studies). The degree of Ph.D. in Water Resources requires a minimum of 33 credits of course work beyond the bachelor’s degree and completion of a dissertation, for a total of 78 credits (note for transfers: A Ph.D. student must complete at least 39 of the 78 required credits at the University of Idaho while matriculated in the College of Graduate Studies). Both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees have higher credit requirements for course work than those of the College of Graduate Studies to allow students to develop depth in a water resources subject area while accommodating breadth in the interdisciplinary areas. Students in the Water Resources concurrent J.D. track must meet the general requirements set forth by the College of Graduate Studies and Water Resources Program for the M.S. or Ph.D. degrees and the College of Law for the J.D. The following sections summarize specific requirements for the three option areas as well as for the joint M.S./ J.D. and Ph.D./ J.D.

Thesis/Dissertation Requirements

Each thesis/dissertation shall reflect integration beyond a single discipline. Integration can be achieved throughout the thesis/ dissertation, or through a separate interdisciplinary chapter (possibly co-authored) that specifically integrates methods and/or information from at least two distinct disciplines to advance the argument(s) in the thesis/dissertation. All chapters shall be integrated into a coherent whole. Each student shall evaluate the interdisciplinarity of their thesis/ dissertation, at the proposal stage by completing the Interdisciplinary Thesis/Dissertation Proposal Approval form, and prior to the final defense by completing the Interdisciplinary Thesis/Dissertation Approval Form.

Committee Requirements

Each committee shall be composed of members from more than one discipline. For the M.S. a minimum of three members is required; for the Ph.D. a minimum of four members is required. All committee members must approve a) the student’s study plan, b) the interdisciplinary component(s) of the thesis/dissertation proposal by signing the Interdisciplinary Thesis/Dissertation Proposal Approval Form, and c.) the interdisciplinary component(s) of the thesis/dissertation at the time of the final defense by signing the Interdisciplinary Thesis/Dissertation Approval Form.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

Admission to this program is highly competitive and recruitment is international in scope. Even exceptional applicants are admitted only when there is an opening with one of the participating faculty. As required by the College of Graduate Studies, all applicants must provide: official transcripts from all colleges and/or universities previously attended, a resume or curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests that clearly identifies the research he or she would like to pursue at the University of Idaho, a statement of academic and career goals, and three letters of reference that speak to the applicant’s aptitude for graduate research in water resources. For applicants for whom English is a second language, a TOEFL score of at least 600 (CBT 250) is required. Students can apply to the concurrent degree program only after application and admission to the UI College of Law and to the Water Resources Program.

To apply, please go to the University of Idaho Graduate Admissions webpage at www.uidaho.edu/admissions/graduate (https://www.uidaho.edu/admissions/graduate/) or contact the Graduate Admissions Office, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 444266, Moscow, ID 83844-4266.

Water Resources Graduate Degree Programs

- Water Resources Concurrent J.D. Degree (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/agricultural-life-sciences/water-resources/water-resources-concurrent-jd-degree/)
- Water Resources Engineering and Science Option (M.S.) (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/agricultural-life-sciences/water-resources/water-resources-engineering-science-option-ms/)
- Water Resources Engineering and Science Option (Ph.D.) (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/agricultural-life-sciences/water-resources/water-resources-engineering-science-option-phd/)
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• Water Resources Science and Management Option (M.S.) (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/agricultural-life-sciences/water-resources/water-resources-science-management-option-ms/)
• Water Resources Science and Management Option (Ph.D.) (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/agricultural-life-sciences/water-resources/water-resources-science-management-option-phd/)