WATERSHEDS AND WATER RESOURCES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

Watersheds are important landscape features that control the biogeochemistry of natural waters. This interdisciplinary minor enables students to learn the fundamental processes governing the transport and chemical evolution of surface and subsurface waters. It provides a complement to elective and required coursework in Earth sciences, resource management, wastewater treatment, and/or environmental planning. Students in this program will learn to apply fundamental concepts of chemistry, biology, geoscience, and landscape evolution to processes operating at the watershed scale. Learning objectives for the minor include excellence in written and oral expression, the ability to collect and interpret data from dynamic natural systems, and rigor in scientific thought.

What is Watersheds and Water Resources?

Population growth, land-use changes, and global environmental change are among the factors that will place further demands on an already stressed global fresh water supply. The Watersheds and Water Resources minor brings together courses from the colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Earth and Mineral Sciences, Engineering, and Science to provide interdisciplinary perspectives on water resources to help address local and global water challenges.

You Might Like This Program If...

You want to improve the quality of life for people locally, nationally, or worldwide by providing adequate sources of fresh water for human needs, while being sensitive to the needs of other plant and animal species and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Program Requirements

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Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10).

Additional Courses

Select 18 credits (at least 6 credits at the 400 level) from the WWR committee’s approved list of courses, which includes but is not limited to the following:

- BE 307  Principles of Soil and Water Engineering
- BE 467  Design of Stormwater and Erosion Control Facilities
- PLANT 217  Landscape Soil and Water Management
- ASM 327  Soil and Water Resource Management
- CE 370  Introduction to Environmental Engineering
- CE 371  Water and Wastewater Treatment
- CE 461  Water-resource Engineering
- CE 475  Water Quality Chemistry
- CHEM 202  Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 402  Chemistry in the Environment
- ERM 411  Legal Aspects of Resource Management
- ERM 435  Limnology
- ERM 450  Wetland Conservation
- ENVE 411  Water Supply and Pollution Control
- ENVE 415  Hydrology
- ENVSE 408  Contaminant Hydrology
- FOR 470  Watershed Management
- FOR 471  Watershed Management Laboratory
- GEOC 201  Earth Materials
- GEOC 340  Geomorphology
- GEOC 412  Water Resources Geochemistry
- GEOC 413  Techniques in Environmental Geochemistry
- GEOC 419  The Organic Geochemistry of Natural Waters and Sediments
- GEOC 452  Hydrogeology
- GPR 405  Hydopedology
- SOILS 418  Nutrient Management in Agricultural Systems
- WFS 410  General Fishery Science
- WFS 422  Ecology of Fishes

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and-out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park

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Career Paths

Students earning the Watersheds and Water Resources minor learn a wide range of research and analytical skills that are highly valued by employers. Students with expertise in watersheds and water resources find jobs in all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, and in industry.

Careers

Students earning the Watersheds and Water Resources minor are well positioned to find employment with diverse organizations spanning business, government, and nonprofit sectors. Such organizations may include (but are not limited to): AECOM; CH2M; Dewberry; Dow Chemical; Gannett Fleming; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Tetra Tech; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; local, regional, and state agencies; environmental and engineering consulting firms; policy research institutes; private corporations; conservation associations; and humanitarian organizations.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

The Watersheds and Water Resources minor is useful for students who are interested in pursuing graduate degrees in the environmental and social sciences and engineering. Alumni enter graduate and professional studies in a variety of programs, including (but not limited to) geosciences, geography, environmental sciences, ecology, sustainability, public policy, emergency management, planning, business, engineering, and law. They sometimes begin graduate or professional programs directly after finishing undergraduate studies, but often get several years' work experience before returning to school, either full or part-time.

Contact

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