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An Update on the TAMU Interdisciplinary Graduate Water Degree

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AN UPDATE ON THE TAMU INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE WATER DEGREE

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Water is a keystone natural resources in Texas required to sustain human life, a viable economy and a livable environment. Over the past 50 years, population growth and shifts, economic development, technologic innovation and changing political systems have intensified competition for Texas water resources necessitating a greater emphasis on the integrative and adaptive management. In response to this challenge Texas A&M University instituted in 2005 an interdisciplinary graduate degree program in water management and hydrologic sciences. The following outlines the curriculum, administrative structure, current and projected student enrollment for the program

Program Objectives

To encourage the collaboration of current faculty in different departments and colleges in developing a state, national and internationally recognized program in water management and hydrology;

To prepare the next generation of students for professional and academic careers in the water management and hydrologic science in Texas and at the national and international levels;

To create and sustain a teaching and research environment that brings together a variety of professions and disciplines for an exchange of knowledge about the unique attributes of managing waste;

To provide a teaching and research base for an ongoing series of research collaborations, lectures, seminars, and workshops that will improve communication and exchange of knowledge between Texas A&M University students and faculty and professionals around Texas and the nation; and

To assist in protecting the homeland security of public water supplies.

Degree Options

Students may earn one of the following degrees: (1) a Master of Water Management degree (36 credit hours: non thesis; This degree is designed for students with diverse backgrounds who are planning a professional career in managing public water supply systems); (2) a Master of Science (32 credit hours with a thesis; This degree is designed primarily for students with technical and science backgrounds who wish to complement their primary discipline by obtaining scientific/technical expertise in water. It will also serve as a preparatory degree for the Ph.D.) (3) a Doctor of Philosophy (64 total semester credit hours for students with a masters degree, or 96 semester credit hours for students entering with a bachelors degree).

Program Administration

1. Council of Participating Deans and Vice-President for Research administers program.
2. Degrees granted by Texas A&M University under the guidance of an intercollegiate faculty. Intercollegiate faculty establish an executive committee and a water chair to direct and supervise program. The water chair reports to the Council of Participating Deans.

Program Faculty by Departments (39 total faculty)

Agricultural Economics (6); Atmospheric Science (1); Biological and Agricultural Engineering (6); Civil Engineering (7) Forestry (1); Geology/Geophysics (4); Geography (3); Urban and Regional Planning (2); Rangeland Ecology (3); Recreation/Parks (1); Soil/Crop Sci. (2); Wildlife & Fisheries (3)

Enrollments

	Current		Projected		
	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Fall 2007
Masters	7	9	20	25	35
Ph.D.'s	4	7	10	11	12

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