



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

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PNWWATER 053

University of Idaho's:

Web-Based Water Certificate Program



The University of Idaho has developed and is offering a Water Science Certificate that is entirely web-based. This certificate program is developed for people who have already completed a college degree and consists of 12 credits of course work. This program is specifically designed for currently employed professionals working in areas that deal with environmental issues and resource management. This certificate program can also be used to introduce prospective students to a potential graduate degree program.

As the state's land grant institution, the University of Idaho has a reputation of having outstanding programs that support natural resources (soil, water, air, minerals, biodiversity) teaching, research, and outreach. The UI Water Science Certificate provides background and depth in the concepts and tools currently used in water science, including an emphasis in

water quality, surface water, and water management and policy. This program allows professionals to keep up-to-date in this rapidly changing field. This program is administered by Environmental Science, the largest interdisciplinary academic program at the University of Idaho.

Prior to working on the Water Science Certificate, students must have completed an undergraduate degree in a related field. Course credits earned as an undergraduate student may not be applied toward a certificate. Several departments at the University of Idaho provide coursework for this certificate program.

The certificate program is interdisciplinary and is supported by many academic units on campus. The Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Forest Resources, and Soil Science academic units provide hydrology-related coursework for the program. Water management and policy coursework is provided by the Conservation Social Science, Geography, Political Science, and Agricultural Economics departments. The Geology, Soil Science, Environmental Science, and Agricultural Systems Management units provide the water quality coursework.

The web-based course offerings have been developed in the last three years and have identical content to their live counterpart classes on campus. This is an excellent educational opportunity for professionals to enhance their water science skills.

The Water Science Certificate consists of 12 credits selected from the following courses. A minimum of 3 credits is required in each of the following areas: (1) water quality, (2) hydrology, and (3) water management and policy. Refer to the University of Idaho General Catalog at <http://www.uidaho.edu/catalogs> for course descriptions and prerequisite requirements.



Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners

Land Grant Universities

Alaska

Cooperative Extension Service
Contact Fred Sorensen:
907-786-6311

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water/index.html>

University Publications:

<http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/publications/>

Idaho

University of Idaho
Cooperative Extension System
Contact Bob Mahler: 208-885-7025

<http://www.uidaho.edu/wq/wqhome.html>

University Publications:

<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/Catalog/catalog.html>

Oregon

Oregon State University
Extension Service
Contact Mike Gamroth: 541-737-3316

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

Washington

Washington State University
WSU Extension
Contact Bob Simmons:

360-427-9670 ext. 690

<http://wawater.wsu.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://pubs.wsu.edu/>

Northwest Indian College
Contact: Michael Cochrane:
360-392-4299

mcocrane@nwic.edu or

<http://www.nwic.edu/>

Water Resource Research Institutes

Water and Environmental Research
Center (Alaska)

<http://www.uaf.edu/water/>

Idaho Water Resources
Research Institute
<http://www.boise.uidaho.edu/>

Institute for Water and
Watersheds (Oregon)
<http://water.oregonstate.edu/>

State of Washington
Water Research Center
<http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/>

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA, Region 10
The Pacific Northwest
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

Office of Research and Development,
Corvallis Laboratory
<http://www.epa.gov/wed/>

For more information contact
Jan Seago at 206-553-0038 or
seago.jan@epa.gov

The Project

Land Grant Universities, Water Research Institutes, and EPA Region 10 have formed a partnership to provide research and education to communities about protecting or restoring the quality of water resources. This partnership is being supported in part by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension System (CSREES).

Our Goal and Approach

The goal of this Project is to provide leadership for water resources research, education, and outreach to help people, industry, and governments to prevent and solve current and emerging water quality and quantity problems. The approach to achieving this goal is for the Partners to develop a coordinated water quality effort based on, and strengthening, individual state programs.

Our Strengths

The Project promotes regional collaboration by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts; assisting program gaps; identifying potential issues for cross-agency and private sector collaboration; and developing a clearinghouse of expertise and programs. In addition, the Project establishes or enhances partnerships with federal, state, and local environmental and water resource management agencies, such as by placing a University Liaison within the offices of EPA Region 10.

Water Quality (minimum of 3 credits)

		Credits
ASM 430	Water and Wastewater Operations Management	3
EnvS 546	Drinking Water and Human Health	3
Geol 564	Geochemistry of Natural Waters	3
Geol 578	Advanced Geochemistry of Natural Waters	3

Hydrology (minimum of 3 credits)

		Credits
BAE 450	Environmental Hydrology	3
For 462	Watershed Science and Management	3
Soil 415	Environmental Soil Physics	3

Water Management and Policy (minimum of 3 credits)

		Credits
AgE 404	Western US Water Res Policy and Env Equity	3
Geog 524	Hydrological Applications of GIS & Remote Sensing	3
PolS 562	Natural Resource Policy	3
CSS 404	Plan/Dec. Making Processes for Water Management	3

For more information and the details on the Water Science Certificate program contact Chris Dixon in the Environmental Science Program at the University of Idaho (208-885-6113); envs@uidaho.edu, or cdixon@uidaho.edu.

National Water Quality Program Areas

The four land grant universities in the Pacific Northwest have aligned our water resource extension and research efforts with eight themes of the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension System.

1. Animal Waste Management
2. Drinking Water and Human Health
3. Environmental Restoration
4. Nutrient and Pesticide Management
5. Pollution Assessment and Prevention
6. Watershed Management
7. Water Conservation and Management
8. Water Policy and Economics

CSREES is the Cooperative States Research, Education, and Extension Service, a sub-agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is the federal partner in this water quality program.