WATER SCIENCE

Description

Website: [http://snr.unl.edu/undergrad/majors/water](http://snr.unl.edu/undergrad/majors/water)

The degree program in water science is designed to educate students in basic and applied sciences related to water resources. The goal is to educate individuals to gather and synthesize information from several disciplines, to formulate rational and broadly informed solutions to complex water related problems, and to effectively implement various water-based programs.

The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of students who intend to pursue careers in public and private organizations that conduct scientific water research or manage water resources, in private consulting companies that offer water research or management services, in agencies that form or implement water related policy, and in a broad range of nonprofit institutions that are interested in water resources. The program also provides students the opportunity to prepare for graduate study in water/hydrological sciences and water resources.

A minimum of 120 credit hours is required for the bachelor of science degree. Of these requirements, 43-48 credit hours are in an integrated water science curriculum designed to provide both breadth and depth in water resources. The water science degree program also requires 21 credit hours of science and mathematics. In addition, the student must select an option area consisting of approximately 18-26 credit hours. The option allows students to develop an individualized area of study. To complete the degree, the student must take 24 credit hours of communication, humanities, and social science courses.

Option areas include:
- Aquatic Ecology Option
- Hydrology Option
- Water Law and Policy Option
- Water Quality Option
- Watershed Management Option

Application for University of Nebraska–Lincoln freshman scholarships automatically makes you eligible for SNR scholarships. Many scholarships are available, including the Viessman Scholarship, specifically for students in water science. For more information, visit [http://snr.unl.edu](http://snr.unl.edu).

College Requirements

College Admission

Requirements for admission into the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) are consistent with general University admission requirements (one unit equals one high school year): 4 units of English, 4 units of mathematics, 3 units of natural sciences, 3 units of social sciences, and 2 units of world language. Students must also meet performance requirements: a 3.0 cumulative high school grade point average OR an ACT composite of 20 or higher, writing portion not required OR a score of 1040 or higher on the SAT Critical Reading and Math sections OR rank in the top one-half of graduating class; transfer students must have a 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) cumulative grade point average and 2.0 on the most recent term of attendance. For students entering the PGA Golf Management degree program, a certified golf handicap of 12 or better (e.g., USGA handicap card) or written ability (MS Word file) equivalent to a 12 or better handicap by a PGA professional or high school golf coach is required. For more information, please visit [http://pgm.unl.edu/requirements](http://pgm.unl.edu/requirements).

Admission Deficiencies/Removal of Deficiencies

Students who are admitted to CASNR with core course deficiencies must remove these deficiencies within the first 30 credit hours at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, or within the first calendar year at Nebraska, whichever takes longer, excluding foreign languages. Students have up to 60 credit hours to remove world language deficiencies. College-level coursework taken to remove deficiencies may be used to meet degree requirements in CASNR.

Deficiencies in the required entrance subjects can be removed by the completion of specified courses in the University or by correspondence. The Office of Admissions, Alexander Building (south entrance), City Campus, provides information to new students on how deficiencies can be removed.

College Degree Requirements

Curriculum Requirements

The curriculum requirements of the College consist of three areas: ACE (Achievement-Centered Education), College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Core, and Degree Program requirements and electives. All three areas of the College Curriculum Requirements are incorporated within the description of the Major/Degree Program sections of the catalog. The individual major/degree program listings of classes ensures that a student will meet the minimum curriculum requirements of the College.

World Languages/Language Requirement

Two units of a world language are required. This requirement is usually met with two years of high school language.

Minimum Hours Required for Graduation

The College grants the bachelors degree in programs associated with agricultural sciences, natural resources, and related programs. Students working toward a degree must earn at least 120 semester hours of credit. A minimum cumulative grade point average of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) must be maintained throughout the course of studies and is required for graduation. Some degree programs have a higher cumulative grade point average required for graduation. Please check the degree program on its graduation cumulative grade point average.

Grade Rules

Removal of C-, D, and F Grades

Only the most recent letter grade received in a given course will be used in computing a student’s cumulative grade point average if the student has completed the course more than once and previously received a grade or grades below C in that course.

The previous grade (or grades) will not be used in the computation of the cumulative grade point average, but it will remain a part of the academic record and will appear on any transcript.

A student can remove from his/her cumulative average a course grade of C, D+, D, or F if the student repeats the same course at the University of Nebraska and receives a grade other than P (pass), I (incomplete), N (no pass), W (withdrawn), or NR (no report). If a course is no longer being
offered, it is not eligible for the revised grade point average computation process.

For complete procedures and regulations, see the Office of the University Registrar website at http://www.unl.edu/regrec/course-repeats (http://www.unl.edu/regrec/course-repeats/).

**Pass/No Pass**

Students in CASNR may take any course offered on a Pass/No Pass basis within the 24-hour limitation established by the Faculty Senate. However, a department may specify that the Pass/No Pass status of its courses be limited to non-majors or may choose to offer some courses for letter grades only.

**GPA Requirements**

A minimum cumulative grade point average of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) must be maintained throughout the course of studies and is required for graduation. Some degree programs have a higher cumulative grade point average required for graduation. Please check the degree program on its graduation cumulative grade point average.

**Transfer Credit Rules**

To be considered for admission, a transfer student, Nebraska resident or nonresident, must have an accumulated average of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and a minimum C average in the last semester of attendance at another college. Transfer students who have completed less than 12 credit hours of college study must submit either ACT or SAT scores.

Ordinarily, credits earned at an accredited college are accepted by the University. The College, however, will evaluate all hours submitted on an application for transfer and reserves the right to accept or reject any of them. Sixty (60) is the maximum number of hours the University will accept on transfer from a two-year college. Ninety (90) is the maximum number of hours the University will accept from a four-year college. Transfer credit in the degree program must be approved by the degree program advisor on a Request for Substitution Form to meet specific course requirements, group requirements, or course level requirements in the major. At least 9 hours in the major field, including the capstone course, must be completed at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln regardless of the number of hours transferred.

The College will accept no more than 10 semester hours of C-, D+, D, and D- grades from other schools. The C-, D+, D, and D- grades can only be applied to free electives. This policy does not apply to the transfer of grades from UNO or UNK to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

**Joint Academic Transfer Programs**

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources has agreements with many institutions to support joint academic programs. The transfer programs include dual degree programs and cooperative degree programs. Dual degree programs offer students the opportunity to receive a degree from a participating institution and also to complete requirements for a bachelor of science degree in CASNR. Cooperative programs result in a single degree from either the University of Nebraska–Lincoln or the cooperating institution.

**Dual Degree Programs**

**A to B Programs**

The A to B Program, a joint academic program offered by the CASNR and participating community colleges, allows students to complete the first two years of a degree program at the participating community college and continue their education and study in a degree program leading toward a bachelor of science degree.

The A to B Program provides a basic knowledge plus specialized coursework. Students transfer into CASNR with junior standing.

Depending on the community college, students enrolled in the A to B Program may complete the requirements for an associate of science at the community college, transfer to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and work toward a bachelor of science degree.

Participating community colleges include:

- Central Community College
- Metropolitan Community College
- Mid-Plains Community College
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
- Nebraska Indian Community College
- Northeast Community College
- Southeast Community College
- Western Nebraska Community College

**3+2 Programs**

Two specialized degree programs in animal science and veterinary science are offered jointly with an accredited college or school of veterinary medicine. These two programs permit CASNR animal science or veterinary science students to receive a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with a degree in animal science or veterinary science after successfully completing two years of the professional curriculum in veterinary medicine at an accredited veterinary school. Students who successfully complete the 3+2 Program, must provide transcripts and complete the Application for Degree form via MyRED. Students without MyRED access may apply for graduation in person at Husker Hub in the Canfield Administration Building, or by mail. Students should discuss these degree programs with their academic advisor.

**Cooperative Degree Programs**

Academic credit from the University and a cooperating institution are applied towards a four-year degree from either the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (University degree-granting program) or the cooperating institution (non University degree-granting program). All have approved programs of study.

**UNL Degree-Granting Programs**

A University of Nebraska–Lincoln degree-granting program is designed to provide students the opportunity to complete a two-year program of study at one of the four-year institutions listed below, transfer to CASNR, and complete the requirements for a bachelor of science degree.

- **Chadron State College.** Chadron State College offers a 2+2 program leading to a grassland ecology and management degree program and a transfer program leading to a bachelor of science in agricultural education in the teaching option.

- **Wayne State College.** Wayne State College offers a 3+1 program leading to a bachelor of science in plant biology in the ecology and management option and a 3+1 program leading to a bachelor of science in Applied Science.
University of Nebraska at Kearney. Transfer programs are available for students pursuing degree programs leading to a bachelor of science degree.

University of Nebraska at Omaha. Transfer programs are available for students pursuing degree programs leading to a bachelor of science degree.

Non University of Nebraska—Lincoln Degree-Granting Programs
CASNR cooperates with other institutions to provide coursework that is applied towards a degree at the cooperating institution. Pre-professional programs offered by CASNR allow students to complete the first two or three years of a degree program at the University prior to transferring and completing a degree at the cooperating institution.

Chadron State College—Range Science. The 3+1 Program in range science allows Chadron State College students to pursue a range science degree through Chadron State College. Students complete three years of coursework at Chadron State College and one year of specialized range science coursework (32 credit hours) at CASNR.

Dordt College (Iowa)—Agricultural Education: Teaching Option. This program allows students to pursue an Agricultural Education Teaching Option degree leading toward a bachelor of science in agricultural education. Students at Dordt College will complete 90 credit hours in the Agricultural Education: Teaching Option Transfer Program.

Residency
Students must complete at least 30 of the total hours for their degree using University of Nebraska–Lincoln credits. At least 18 of the 30 credit hours must be in courses offered through CASNR1 (>299) including the appropriate ACE 10 degree requirement or an approved ACE 10 substitution offered through another Nebraska college and excluding independent study regardless of the number of hours transferred. Credit earned during education abroad may be used toward the residency requirement if students register through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and participate in prior-approved education abroad programs. University of Nebraska–Lincoln open enrollment and summer independent study courses count toward residence.

Online and Distance Education
There are many opportunities to earn college credit online through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Some of these credits may be applicable not only as elective credits but also toward the fulfillment of the College’s education requirements. Credits earned online may count toward residency. However, certain offerings may not be counted toward scholarship requirements or academic recognition criteria.

For further information, contact: Office of Online and Distance Education University of Nebraska–Lincoln 305 Brace Labs Lincoln, NE 68588-0109 402-472-4681 http://online.unl.edu/

Independent Study Rules
Students wishing to take part in independent studies must obtain permission; complete and sign a contract form; and furnish copies of the contract to the instructor, advisor, departmental office, and the Dean’s Office. The contract should be completed before registration. Forms are available in 103 Agricultural Hall or online at the CASNR website.

Independent study projects include research, literature review or extension of coursework under supervision and evaluation of a departmental faculty member.

Students may only count 12 hours of independent study toward their degrees and no more than 6 hours can be counted during their last 36 hours earned, excluding senior thesis, internships, and courses taught under an independent study number.

Other College Degree Requirements
Capstone Course Requirement
A capstone course is required for each CASNR degree program. A capstone course is defined as a course in which students are required to integrate diverse bodies of knowledge to solve a problem or formulate a policy of societal importance.

ACE Requirements
All students must fulfill the Achievement Centered Education (ACE) requirements. Information about the ACE program may be viewed at ace.unl.edu (https://ace.unl.edu/).

The minimum requirements of CASNR reflect the common core of courses that apply to students pursuing degrees in the college. Students should work with an advisor to satisfy ACE outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 10 with the college requirements.

Catalog Rule
Students must fulfill the requirements stated in the catalog for the academic year in which they are first admitted to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln or when they were first admitted to a Joint Academic Transfer Program. In consultation with advisors, a student may choose to follow a subsequent catalog for any academic year in which they are admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at Nebraska in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Students must complete all degree requirements from a single catalog year. The catalog which a student follows for degree requirements may not be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation.

Learning Outcomes
Graduates of water science will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a broad range of knowledge and understanding of basic and applied sciences that relate to water resources.
2. Gather and synthesize information from several disciplines, formulate ecologically and economically rational alternatives, and effectively implement various water-based programs.
3. Communicate through writings and oral presentations complex ideas and develop sound arguments based on technical knowledge.
4. Pursue careers in agencies that form or implement policy at all levels of government, in public and private organizations that manage water and land resources, and in a broad range of public, private, and nonprofit institutions that are interested in water resources.
5. Conduct original research that includes developing a hypothesis, designing appropriate experiments, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, and drawing conclusions.
Major Requirements

Core Requirements

Natural Resources Core

College Integrative Course (ACE 8)
SCIL 101  Science and Decision-Making for a  Complex World  3

Credit Hours Subtotal:  3

Natural Sciences

CASNR Approved Life Sciences (ACE 4)
CHEM 109A  General Chemistry I  and General Chemistry I Laboratory (ACE 4)  4

Select one of the following:  4
AGRO 131 /  HORT 131  Plant Science  and Agronomic Plant Science Laboratory
AGRO 132
BIOS 101  General Biology  and General Biology Laboratory
LIFE 120  and Fundamentals of Biology I
LIFE 120L  and Fundamentals of Biology I Laboratory

Select one of the following:  5
MSYM 109  Physical Principles in Agriculture and Life Sciences  and Physical Principles in Agriculture and Life Sciences Laboratory
MSYM 109L

PHYS 141  Elementary General Physics I
PHYS 151  Elements of Physics  and Elements of Physics Laboratory
PHYS 211  General Physics I  and General Physics Laboratory I

Credit Hours Subtotal:  13

Mathematics and Statistics (ACE 3)
MATH 106  Calculus I  5

STAT 218  Introduction to Statistics  3
or STAT 380  Statistics and Applications

Credit Hours Subtotal:  8

Communication

Written Communication (ACE 1)
Select one of the following:  3
ENGL 150  Writing and Inquiry
ENGL 151  Writing and Argument
ENGL 254  Writing and Communities
JGEN 120  Basic Business Communication
JGEN 200  Technical Communication I
JGEN 300  Technical Communication II

Oral Communication (ACE 2)
Select one of the following:  3
ALEC 102  Interpersonal Skills for Leadership
COMM 101  Communication in the 21st Century
COMM 209  Public Speaking
COMM 210  Communicating in Small Groups
COMM 215  Visual Communication
COMM 283  Interpersonal Communication
COMM 286  Business and Professional Communication

JGEN 300  Technical Communication II
MRKT 257  Sales Communication
TMFD 121  Visual Communication and Presentation
NRES 301  Environmental Communication Skills

Communication and Interpersonal Skills Electives
Select one of the following:  3
Any additional ACE 1 or ACE 2 course
ALEC 136  Fundamentals of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Communication
ALEC 207 /  ADPR 207  Communicating Science with Public Audiences
ALEC 305  Presentation Strategies to Communicate Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
ALEC 350  Agriculture, the Environment & Science in the Media
JOMC 101  Principles of Mass Media
MLSC 102  Basic Leadership  and Leadership and Teamwork
MLSC 301  Leadership and Problem Solving

Credit Hours Subtotal:  9

Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences
Select one of the following (ACE 6):  3
AECN 141  Introduction to the Economics of Agriculture
ECON 200  Economic Essentials and Issues
ECON 211  Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 212  Principles of Microeconomics

Select one course each from ACE outcomes 5, 7, and 9  9

Credit Hours Subtotal:  12

Total Credit Hours  45

Specific Major Requirements

NOTE: Courses taken in the Water Science Core do not count toward the Water Science Options.

Water Science Core Courses
NRES 453  Hydrology  3

Select one of the following:  3-4
GEOL 100  Introduction to Geology
GEOL 101  Dynamic Earth
GEOL 106  Environmental Geology
GEOL 109  Oceanography

Select one of the following:  3-4
METR 100  Weather and Climate
NRES 208  Climate Literacy in Natural Resources
NRES 408 /  AGRO 408 /  GEOG 408 /  HORT 408 /  METR 408 /  WATS 408  Microclimate: The Biological Environment

Select one of the following:  3-4
NRES 218  Introduction to Geospatial Technologies
NRES 412 /  GEOG 412  Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRES 220 &amp; NRES 222</td>
<td>Principles of Ecology and Ecology Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 484 / AGRO 484 / GEOG 484 / GEOL 484 / WATS 484</td>
<td>Water Resources Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOIL 153 / AGRO 153 / HORT 153</td>
<td>Soil Resources</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 281 / GEOG 281 / NRES 281</td>
<td>Introduction to Water Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 354 / MSYM 354 / SOIL 354</td>
<td>Soil Conservation and Watershed Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Select one of the following:** 3-4

- ENVR 489A: Environmental Studies Senior Thesis I
- ENVR 489B: and Environmental Studies Senior Thesis II
- ENVR 489H: Honors: Environmental Studies Senior Thesis I & II
- WATS 498A: Senior Project I
- WATS 498B: and Senior Project II

Credit Hours Subtotal: 31

**Law, Policy and Management**

Select two of the following: 6

- AECN 265 / NREE 265: Resource and Environmental Economics I
- AECN 357 / NREE 357: Natural Resource and Environmental Law
- AECN 388: Ethics in Agriculture and Natural Resources
- AECN 456: Environmental Law
- AECN 457 / NREE 457 / WATS 457: Water Law
- CRPL 470: Environmental Planning and Policy
- NRES 315: Human Dimensions of Fish and Wildlife Management
- NRES 323: Natural Resources Policy
- NRES 423: Integrated Resources Management
- WATS 465 / AECN 465 / NREE 465: Resource and Environmental Economics II
- WATS 475 / AGRO 475 / CIVE 475 / CRPL 475 / GEOL 475 / MSYM 475 / NRES 475 / POLS 475 / SOCI 475 / SOIL 475: Water Quality Strategy

Credit Hours Subtotal: 6

**Science and Technology**

Select two of the following: 6-8

- GEOL 372: Water & Earth Connections
- GEOL 472: Water in Geosciences
- NRES 319: Fundamentals of Environmental Sampling
- NRES 320: and Fundamentals of Environmental Sampling Laboratory
- NRES 444 / GRAS 444 / RNGE 444 / AGRO 444: Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment
- NRES 451: Soils, Water, and Environmental Chemistry
- NRES 463: Fisheries Science
- NRES 463L: and Fisheries Science Lab
- NRES 477 / AGRO 477 / GEOG 467 / SOIL 477: Great Plains Field Pedology
- NRES 488 / GEOL 488: Groundwater Geology
- WATS 361 / AGRO 361 / GEOL 361 / SOIL 361 / NRES 361: Soils, Environment and Water Quality
- WATS 418 / GEOL 418 / NRES 419: Chemistry of Natural Waters
- WATS 452 / AGRO 452 / MSYM 452: Irrigation Systems Management
- WATS 459 / BIOS 459 / NRES 459: Limnology
- WATS 468 / BIOS 458 / NRES 468: Wetlands
- WATS 481 / BIOS 481 / NRES 481: Stream and River Ecology

Credit Hours Subtotal: 6

**Core Requirements**

Complete requirements 45

Credit Hours Subtotal: 45

**Option Requirements and Electives**

Complete requirements 18-26

Credit Hours Subtotal: 20

**Free Electives**

Select 3-15 hours 3-15

Credit Hours Subtotal: 12

Total Credit Hours 120

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1 The Senior Project fulfills the capstone requirement for water science students. The project is usually provided by private industry, government agencies, or nonprofit organizations. The senior thesis consists of research designed by the student along with the aid of faculty.
Tracks/Options/Concentrations/Emphases

Requirements
Students must consult with an advisor to select an option prior to the beginning of their junior year.

NOTE: Courses taken in the Water Science Options do not count toward the Water Science Core.

Aquatic Ecology Option
This option is designed for students interested in lake, river, stream, or wetland ecology. Students are prepared for careers as research scientists or technicians with public agencies, private consulting firms, universities, and nonprofit organizations. Completion of this program provides excellent preparation for graduate study.

Option Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIFE 121 &amp; LIFE 121L</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Biology II and Fundamentals of Biology II Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or AGRO 278</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110A &amp; CHEM 110L</td>
<td>General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 459 / BIOS 459 / NRES 459</td>
<td>Limnology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 481 / BIOS 481 / NRES 481</td>
<td>Stream and River Ecology</td>
<td>4</td>
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Credit Hours Subtotal: 16

Electives
Select one of the following: 3-4

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 424 / GEOL 424</td>
<td>Biogeochemical Cycles</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 457 / GEOL 457</td>
<td>Ecosystem Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 402 / BIOS 485 / ENTO 402 &amp; NRES 402L / BIOS 485L / ENTO 402L</td>
<td>Aquatic Insects and Identification of Aquatic Insects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 470</td>
<td>Lake and Reservoir Restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 489 / BIOS 489</td>
<td>Ichthyology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 3-4

Total Credit Hours 19-20

Hydrology Option
This option trains students in the quantitative aspects of hydrologic sciences and is designed for students considering careers as a professional hydrologist, research scientist, or consultant (among others). Completion of this program provides excellent preparation for graduate study.

Option Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRES 488 / GEOL 488</td>
<td>Groundwater Geology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 107</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 212 &amp; PHYS 222</td>
<td>General Physics II and General Physics Laboratory II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRO 472 / NRES 472 / SOIL 472 / WATS 472</td>
<td>Applied Soil Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 15

Electives
Select one of the following: 3-4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110A &amp; CHEM 110L</td>
<td>General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIVE 456</td>
<td>Surface Water Hydrology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 472</td>
<td>Water in Geosciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 208</td>
<td>Calculus III</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 221</td>
<td>Differential Equations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 479 / METR 479 / NRES 479 / BSEN 479</td>
<td>Hydroclimatology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 3-4

Total Credit Hours 18-19

Water Law and Policy Option
Under this option, a student gains expertise in water issues pertaining to water quality, quantity, allocation, and planning. Careers in this rapidly emerging field of water include lobbyists, community planners, public and tribal liaisons, and policy makers, to name a few. This option also prepares students for continued education in water law.

NOTE: Students in the Water Law and Policy Option should select AECN 357 Natural Resource and Environmental Law and NRES 323 Natural Resources Policy under the Law Policy, and Management cluster of the Water Science Core.

Option Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>AECN 265 / NREE 265</td>
<td>Resource and Environmental Economics I</td>
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<tr>
<td>AECN 456 / NREE 456</td>
<td>Environmental Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AECN 457 / NREE 457 / WATS 457</td>
<td>Water Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPL 470 / CRPL 472</td>
<td>Environmental Planning and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CRPL 472</td>
<td>Hazard Mitigation Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRES 444 / GRAS 444 / RNGE 444 / AGRO 444</td>
<td>Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Choose one course from the following: 3

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 211</td>
<td>Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 212</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 235</td>
<td>Public Policy: Concepts and Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 261 / ANTH 261 / POLS 261</td>
<td>Conflict and Conflict Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 346</td>
<td>Environmental Sociology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Water Science

Electives

Credit Hours Subtotal: 21
Total Credit Hours 21

**Water Quality Option**
This option trains students with a desire to pursue a career examining water chemistry or quality within lakes, streams, rivers, and groundwater. This option is designed for students considering careers as water quality specialists, research scientists, laboratory and field technicians, water or environmental chemists, and many more.

**Option Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110A &amp; CHEM 110L</td>
<td>General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 251 or CHEM 221</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I or Elementary Quantitative Analysis</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 418 / WATS 418 / NRES 419</td>
<td>Chemistry of Natural Waters</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 221</td>
<td>Water Quality Strategy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 475 / AGRO 475 / CIVE 475 / CRPL 475 / GEOL 475 / MSYM 475 / POLS 475 / SOCI 475 / SOIL 475 / WATS 475</td>
<td>Soils, Environment and Water Quality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOIL 361 / AGRO 361 / GEOL 361 / NRES 361 / WATS 361</td>
<td>Soil Conservation and Watershed Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 20
Total Credit Hours 20

**Electives**
Select two of the following: 6-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 312</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIVE 456</td>
<td>Surface Water Hydrology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 424 / BIOS 424</td>
<td>Biogeochemical Cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 472</td>
<td>Water in Geosciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 451</td>
<td>Soils, Water, and Environmental Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 468 / BIOS 468 / BSEN 468</td>
<td>Wetlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 470</td>
<td>Lake and Reservoir Restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 488 / GEOL 488</td>
<td>Groundwater Geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 107</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 212</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 318</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 459 / BIOS 459 / WATS 459</td>
<td>Limnology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or WATS 481</td>
<td>Stream and River Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 481 / NRES 481</td>
<td>limnology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 6-8
Total Credit Hours 20

**Watershed Management Option**
Watershed Management Option is the management of the water, land, and biological resources to achieve a desired outcome of the water quality and water quantity. This option is designed for students considering careers as water resource managers working for local, state, and federal agencies and private consultants.

**Option Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AECN 357 / NREE 357</td>
<td>Natural Resource and Environmental Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110A &amp; CHEM 110L</td>
<td>General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRES 488 / GEOL 488</td>
<td>Groundwater Geology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 361 / AGRO 361 / GEOL 361 / NRES 361 / SOIL 361</td>
<td>Soils, Environment and Water Quality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 452 / AGRO 452 / MSYM 452</td>
<td>Irrigation Systems Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 459 / BIOS 459 / NRES 459</td>
<td>Limnology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or WATS 481</td>
<td>Stream and River Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 481 / NRES 481</td>
<td>Soil Conservation and Watershed Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 20
Total Credit Hours 20

Requirements for Minor Offered by Department

**Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>WATS 281</td>
<td>Introduction to Water Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 281 / NRES 281</td>
<td>Introduction to Water Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 354 / MSYM 354 / SOIL 354</td>
<td>Soil Conservation and Watershed Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 6

**Advanced Courses**

**Law, Policy and Management**
Select at least one of the following: 3-6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AECN 265 / NREE 265</td>
<td>Resource and Environmental Economics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AECN 357 / NREE 357</td>
<td>Natural Resource and Environmental Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AECN 457 / NREE 457 / WATS 457</td>
<td>Water Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CRPL 470  Environmental Planning and Policy
NRES 323  Natural Resources Policy
NRES 423  Integrated Resources Management
WATS 465 / AECN 465 / NREE 465  Resource and Environmental Economics II
WATS 475 / AGRO 475 / CIVE 475 / CRPL 475 / GEOL 475 / MSYM 475 / NRES 475 / POLS 475 / SOCI 475 / SOIL 475  Water Quality Strategy
WATS 484 / NRES 484  Water Resources Seminar

Science and Technology
Select at least two of the following: 6-9

NRES 319  Fundamentals of Environmental Sampling
NRES 320  Fundamentals of Environmental Sampling Laboratory
NRES 451  Soils, Water, and Environmental Chemistry
NRES 453  Hydrology
NRES 463  Fisheries Science & NRES 463L  and Fisheries Science Lab
NRES 488 / GEOL 488  Groundwater Geology
WATS 361 / AGRO 361 / GEOL 361 / NRES 361 / SOIL 361  Soils, Environment and Water Quality
WATS 408 / AGRO 408 / GEOG 408 / HORT 408 / METR 408  Microclimate: The Biological Environment
WATS 418 / GEOL 418 / NRES 419  Chemistry of Natural Waters
WATS 452 / AGRO 452 / MSYM 452  Irrigation Systems Management
WATS 459 / BIOS 459 / NRES 459 or WATS 468 Wetlands
BIOS 458 / NRES 468
WATS 481 / BIOS 481 / NRES 481  Stream and River Ecology
WATS 484 / NRES 484  Water Resources Seminar

Credit Hours Subtotal: 12
Total Credit Hours: 18

WATS 281 Introduction to Water Science
Crosslisted with: GEOG 281, NRES 281
Prerequisites: High school chemistry or one semester college chemistry; one course in geology or physical geography or soil.
Description: Survey of the water science from the perspective of both natural and social sciences. Water budget, precipitation, evapotranspiration, runoff and stream flow, groundwater, water quality parameters, economics of water, water policy, water law and water politics.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Prerequisite for: AGRO 361, GEOL 361, NRES 361, SOIL 361, WATS 361; NRES 319
Groups: Physical Geography

WATS 299 Career Experiences
Prerequisites: Permission and advanced approval of plan or work.
Description: Student participation in water science applications. May include participation in water resource management, water measurement, water quality monitoring, water supply, water administration; research in laboratories, green houses and fields; or preparation of educational materials.
Credit Hours: 1-5
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 5
Max credits per degree: 12
Grading Option: Graded with Option

WATS 354 Soil Conservation and Watershed Management
Crosslisted with: MSYM 354, SOIL 354
Prerequisites: AGRO/SOIL 153; and MSYM 109 or PHYS 141 or PHYS 151 or PHYS 211
Description: Watershed hydrology, soil erosion, erosion control, water management, and land surveying and mapping. Includes rainfall-runoff relationships; determination of watershed characteristics; terraces, waterways, vegetative filters, and residue management; ponds, wetlands, non-point source pollution control, and water conservation; profile and topographic surveying.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Offered: FALL
WATS 361 Soils, Environment and Water Quality
Crosslisted with: AGRO 361, GEO 361, NRES 361, SOIL 361
Prerequisites: AGRO/HORT/SOIL 153; MATH 102 or 103; two semesters chemistry (CHEM 105 or CHEM 105A and 105L, CHEM 106 or CHEM 106A and 106L, CHEM 109 or CHEM 109A and 109L, CHEM 110 or CHEM 110A and 110L) and WATS/GEOL/NRES 281
Description: Chemical and physical processes that influence the fate and transport of contaminants (inorganic, organic, microbial) in soil-water environments. Extent, fate, mitigation and impact of various sources of pollution. Remedial technologies used for environmental restoration of contaminated environments.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Prerequisite for: WATS 418L Chemistry of Natural Waters Laboratory
Crosslisted with: GEOL 418L, GEOL 818L, NRES 419L, NRES 819L
Prerequisites: CHEM 109 or CHEM 109A and 109L and CHEM 110 or CHEM 110A and 110L or CHEM 113 or CHEM 113A and 113L and 114; GEOL 418 or parallel.
Description: Basic laboratory techniques used to perform water analysis including various wet chemical techniques, instrument use (AA, IC, UV-Visible) and computer modeling. Techniques for sample collection and preservation, parameter estimation and chemical analysis.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Grading Option: Graded with Option

WATS 418 Chemistry of Natural Waters
Crosslisted with: AGRO 418, GEO 418, NRES 419, NRES 819
Prerequisites: CHEM 109 or 109A/L and 110 or 110A/L, 113 or 113A/L and 114, or CHEM 111.
Description: Principles of water chemistry and their use in precipitation, surface water, and groundwater studies. Groundwater applications used to determine the time and source of groundwater recharge, estimate groundwater residence time, identify aquifer mineralogy, examine the degree of mixing between waters of various sources and evaluate what types of biological and chemical processes have occurred during the water’s journey through the aquifer system.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Prerequisite for: GEOL 418L, GEOL 818L, NRES 419L, NRES 819L, WATS 418L; GEOL 917, NRES 917

WATS 418L Chemistry of Natural Waters Laboratory
Crosslisted with: GEOL 418L, GEOL 818L, NRES 419L, NRES 819L
Prerequisites: CHEM 109 or CHEM 109A and 109L and CHEM 110 or CHEM 110A and 110L or CHEM 113 or CHEM 113A and 113L and 114; GEOL 418 or parallel.
Description: Basic laboratory techniques used to perform water analysis including various wet chemical techniques, instrument use (AA, IC, UV-Visible) and computer modeling. Techniques for sample collection and preservation, parameter estimation and chemical analysis.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Grading Option: Graded with Option

WATS 452 Irrigation Systems Management
Crosslisted with: MSYM 452, MSYM 852, AGRO 452
Prerequisites: MSYM 109 or PHYS 141 or PHYS 151 or PHYS 211
Notes: AGRO/SOIL 153 recommended.
Description: Irrigation management and the selection, evaluation, and improvement of irrigation systems. Includes soil-water measurement, crop water use, irrigation scheduling, irrigation efficiency, measurement of water flow, irrigation systems, groundwater and wells, pumping systems, applying chemicals with irrigation systems, and environmental and water resource considerations.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Offered: FALL
Prerequisite for: AGEN 854, MSYM 854; AGEN 955, AGRO 955, CIVE 955, GEOL 985, MSYM 855

WATS 457 Water Law
Crosslisted with: AECN 457, AECN 857, NREE 457
Prerequisites: AECN/NREE 357.
Description: Environmental impact review; public trust doctrine; endangered species; land use controls; wetlands regulation; surface and ground water rights; Indian and federal water rights; impact of water quality regulations on water allocation.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option

WATS 459 Limnology
Crosslisted with: BIOS 459, BIOS 859, NRES 459, NRES 859
Prerequisites: 12 hrs BIOS, including BIOS/NRES 220/BIOS220x; two semesters CHEM.
Description: Physical, chemical, and biological processes that occur in fresh water. Organisms occurring in fresh water and their ecology; biological productivity of water and its causative factors; eutroplication and its effects.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Prerequisite for: BIOS 866, NRES 866
ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Crosslisted with</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Max credits per semester</th>
<th>Max credits per degree</th>
<th>Grading Option</th>
<th>Max credits per degree</th>
<th>Prerequisite for</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>ACE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WATS 461</td>
<td>Soil Physics</td>
<td>AGRO 461, GEOL 461, NRES 461, SOIL 461,</td>
<td>AGRO 461, GEOL 861, NRES 861</td>
<td>Principles of soil physics. Movement of water, air, heat, and solutes in soils. Water retention and movement, including infiltration and field water regime. Movement of chemicals in soils.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Graded with Option</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AGEN 955, AGRO 955, CIVE 955, GEOL 985</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATS 465</td>
<td>Resource and Environmental Economics II</td>
<td>AGEN 465, AGEN 865, NRES 465</td>
<td>MATH 104 and one course in statistics.</td>
<td>Application of resource economics concepts and empirical tools to resource management problems. Public policy issues involving environmental quality, land and water management.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Graded with Option</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AECN 868</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATS 468</td>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>BIOS 458, NRES 468, NRES 868, BSEN 468,</td>
<td>CHEM 109 or CHEM 109A and 109L or CHEM 110 or CHEM 110A and 110L or CHEM 105 or CHEM 105A and 105L or CHEM 106 or CHEM 106A and 106L; Junior or Senior Standing.</td>
<td>Physical, chemical and biological processes that occur in wetlands; the hydrology and soils of wetland systems; organisms occurring in wetlands and their ecology wetland creation, delineation, management and ecotoxicology.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Graded with Option</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>AECN 868</td>
<td>Offered even-numbered calendar years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATS 472</td>
<td>Applied Soil Physics</td>
<td>AGRO 472, AGRO 872, NRES 472, NRES 872,</td>
<td>AGRO/HORT/SOIL 153; MATH 102 or MATH 104 or MATH 106.</td>
<td>Emphasis on applied soil physics. Discussion of theoretical principles followed by field and laboratory exercises and applications. Fluxes of water, solutes, air, and heat through the soil. Emphasis on water infiltration, water retention, other soil hydraulic properties. Components of soil water balance. Management of soil water.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Graded with Option</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AGRO 472, AGRO 872, NRES 472, NRES 872, SOIL 472</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATS 475</td>
<td>Water Quality Strategy</td>
<td>NRES 475, NRES 875, SOCI 475, SOCI 875,</td>
<td>AGRO 475, AGRO 875, CIVE 475, CIVE 875, CRPL 475, CRPL 875, GEOL 475, GEOL 875, MSYM 475, MSYM 875, POLS 475, POLS 875</td>
<td>Movement of chemicals in soils. Strategies for protecting water quality from nonpoint sources of contamination. Introduction to the use of methods of analyzing the impact of strategies on whole systems and subsystems; for selecting strategies; and for evaluating present strategies.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Graded with Option</td>
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<td>AGRO 484, GEOG 484, GEOL 484, NRES 484, NRES 884, AGRO 884, GEOG 884, GEOL 884, WATS 884</td>
<td>Senior standing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATS 479</td>
<td>Hydroclimatology</td>
<td>NRES 479, METR 479, BSEN 479, NRES 879,</td>
<td>NRES 208 or METR 100 or METR/NRES 370.</td>
<td>Interaction between earth's climate and the hydrologic cycle. Energy and water fluxes at the land-atmosphere interface. Atmospheric moisture transport, precipitation, evaporation, snowmelt, and runoff. Impacts of climate variability and change on the hydrologic cycle.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Graded with Option</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NRES 222 or equivalent</td>
<td>Offered spring semester of even-numbered calendar years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATS 481</td>
<td>Stream and River Ecology</td>
<td>WATS 881, BIOS 481, NRES 481</td>
<td>NRES 222 or equivalent</td>
<td>Fundamental physical drivers operating in stream and river ecosystems and how those vary in space and time. Major classes of organisms associated with stream ecosystems and their functional roles. Fundamental controls on biotic diversity in stream and river ecosystems and its variance. Major aspects of stream ecosystem function including energy flow and nutrient cycling. Ecosystem services provided by stream and river ecosystems and causes and consequences of human impacts on streams and rivers. Underlying principles of bioassessment and current methods of stream restoration.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Graded with Option</td>
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<td>AGRO 484, GEOG 484, GEOL 484, NRES 484, NRES 884, AGRO 884, GEOG 884, GEOL 884, WATS 884</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 484</td>
<td>Water Resources Seminar</td>
<td>AGRO 484, GEOG 484, GEOL 484, NRES 484,</td>
<td>AGRO 884, GEOG 884, GEOL 884, WATS 884</td>
<td>Seminar on current water resources research and issues in Nebraska and the region.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Graded with Option</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>AGRO 484, GEOG 484, GEOL 484, NRES 484, NRES 884, AGRO 884, GEOG 884, GEOL 884, WATS 884</td>
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Offered: FALL

Geography (GEOL)

Elective (NRES)

Elective (BSEN)

Elective (BIOS)

Elective (AECN)

Elective (NREE)

ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

Groups: American Government & Public Policy
WATS 496 Principles and Problems in Water Science
Prerequisites: 15 hours in water science or closely related areas.
Description: Individual or group projects in research, literature review, or extension of course work under the supervision and evaluation of a water science faculty member.
Credit Hours: 1-5
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 5
Max credits per degree: 12
Grading Option: Graded with Option

WATS 498A Senior Project I
Prerequisites: Senior standing
Notes: First course of a two-semester sequence of courses consisting of WATS 498A and WATS 498B.
Description: Work as individual or as a team member to develop solutions to water resource problems. Problem involves multi-disciplinary features. Requires independent research, proposal preparation and presentation.
Credit Hours: 2
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Prerequisite for: WATS 498B
ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

WATS 499H Honors Thesis
Prerequisites: Admission to the University Honors Program and permission, AGRI 299H recommended.
Description: Conduct a scholarly research project and write a University Honors Program or undergraduate thesis.
Credit Hours: 3-6
Min credits per semester: 3
Max credits per semester: 6
Max credits per degree: 6
Grading Option: Graded
ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

PLEASE NOTE
This document represents a sample 4-year plan for degree completion with this major. Actual course selection and sequence may vary and should be discussed individually with your college or department academic advisor. Advisors also can help you plan other experiences to enrich your undergraduate education such as internships, education abroad, undergraduate research, learning communities, and service learning and community-based learning.