



FAQ for Water Studies Online Certificate

What is the certificate?

This certificate allows individuals new to water in the Rocky Mountain region, or those already engaged in the water field or sustainable/green industry, to learn more about our most precious resource – water.

Designed to provide introductory level training in water, the certificate teaches skills applicable to a wide-range of professions including water resources, agriculture, building, engineering and consulting firms, non-profit organization, municipal, tribal, county, state, or federal agencies.

Participants are required to complete the first three courses: Water Law, U.S. Water Concerns, Colorado Water and the American West. The Capstone Course is optional.*

*Capstone Course is a final applied learning project. Students will pick a water challenge or problem or issue and address it and write a final paper under the guidance and direction of an expert instructor.

What are the requirements to take this certificate?

There are no prerequisites for this certificate.

Is this for-credit? Do I have to be accepted as an MSU student?

This is a non-credit certificate. You do not need to complete a formal admissions application. You simply need to register online through our website at msudenver.edu/water-studies-online.

Can you tell me about the four courses?

Water Law – offered Fall (September) 2018

This course surveys U.S. water law and administration. Topics include (1) why we need laws regulating water use, (2) how ancient water laws influenced U.S. water law, (3) variations of surface and groundwater law, including prior appropriation, riparian, and hybrid, (4) international and interstate agreements, and (5) a special focus on water administration in the West.

U.S. Water Concerns – offered Fall (September) 2018

In this course, water is examined as a natural and societal resource using local and national examples. Landforms and processes related to water such as the hydrologic cycle, watersheds, surface water, and groundwater are surveyed. Students learn about water use in early civilizations, water and culture, water quality and treatment, and water law. The critical issue of water conservation and scarcity is reviewed in the context of the social, legal, political, economic, and physical infrastructure that controls water around the world.

Colorado Water and the American West - Fall (September) 2018

This course invites students to study the rich history of water in Colorado and the American West. From the beginning, humans in the American West have had to contend with arid environments. This course begins with a look at how the Ancestral Pueblo, and other Native communities used water. Next the course treats Hispanic water management practices in the West, before finally focusing on the American approach to water management in the region. With Colorado as a focal point, the class will explore the fascinating tangle of federal, state, and local interests that led to one of the greatest hydraulic societies in the history of the world.

Capstone – Offered Fall (September) 2018

The capstone project provides an opportunity for participants to actively integrate and apply what they have learned to a real-world project/problem/organization. Whether you currently work as a water professional, or are simply interested in learning more about water in Colorado and the West, an instructor will assist you in designing and executing an applied learning project that demonstrates your new knowledge and skill set while addresses a current water-related issue. The Capstone is optional.

Who are the instructors?

The instructors are faculty at the One World One Water Center with deep expertise in their subject area. You can learn more about the courses and instructors by going to our website at msudenver.edu/water-studies-online.

Are the courses online or face-to-face? What is the self-paced-online format?

Each of the courses in this certificate are 100% online in a self-paced format which means you can work through the course material at your own pace.

As self-directed learners, our students determine the amount of time needed to master the material provided in each module; the instructor provides assistance when needed and will be engaged to ensure your educational experience is beneficial.

When can I register for courses and start the courses?

Registration

Registration for Water Law and U.S. Water Concerns is open now.

Registration for Colorado Water and the American West and the Capstone Course is open now.

Am I eligible for financial aid?

MSU Denver does not offer financial aid for noncredit certificate programs.

Will I receive a certificate upon completion of all four courses?

Yes, students may receive a certificate of completion as long as they have completed and passed U.S. Water Concerns, Water Law and Colorado Water and the American West. The Capstone is optional. Students may also receive an official MSU Denver noncredit transcript for CEUs.

Can students take just one or two courses or do they need to complete the entire certificate?

The certificate is designed to provide an overview of various aspects of water, including water law, water history, and water management, with a particular emphasis on Colorado and the western United States.

Students can take just one or two courses if they choose; however, in order to receive the Water Studies Online Certificate, students must complete and pass U.S. Water Concerns, Water Law and Colorado Water and the American West.

What is the cost of the certificate?

The certificate costs \$1,480. Each course costs \$370.

Where do I register?

You can register directly from our website at msudenver.edu/water-studies-online.