Preparing Skilled Graduates for Diverse Careers in Water Management

MSU Denver’s unique, interdisciplinary academic program in Water Studies—the first of its kind in the nation—was established in 2012 to educate present and future leaders about this precious and fragile resource and to help them play a transformative role in their communities related to water management and use. OWOW’s classes and programs are designed to give students the skills to understand and solve Colorado’s unique water supply and management challenges.

Faculty from across the MSU Denver campus offer Water Studies courses in disciplines such as Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Environmental Science, Management, Journalism, Industrial Design, Women’s Studies, the Arts and more.

Students may minor in Water Studies or enroll in individual classes, and come from majors as diverse as engineering, the arts and psychology. Students gain an understanding of the importance of water and how to integrate that focus within other academic and career interests.

“I chose to pursue the water studies minor to learn more about the most important and diminishing resource in our state. It will also make me more competitive in searching for water jobs.” Joseph Carroll, B.S. Land Use and Water Studies, 2015
Confluence Point: Where Water and Colorado’s Future Converge

Water both unites and divides our state and its varied regions and industries. Understanding this precious natural resource is critical to laying a foundation for economic development and stability, as well as environmental protection. Through the One World One Water Center, our students and the community learn about how water issues intersect with important economic and environmental factors.

BY THE NUMBERS

| 42% | Colorado population growth by 2030 |
| 18% | Of Colorado’s total water supply comes from groundwater |
| 4° | Climate change predicted by 2050 |
| 850,000 lbs. | Of toxic chemicals were deposited into Colorado waterways in 2012 |

Water Studies Alumni Demonstrate Success

Christie Jaeger (B.S. psychology and water studies ’13) is earning a master's degree in experimental psychology at California State University San Marcos. Her focus: the psychology of water use and ways to impact behavior related to water conservation.

“I was always interested in ecological restoration but it got to the point where I realized that I didn’t want to restore environments that were continually degraded by usage,” Jaeger explains. “I wanted to get to the root of it. Why do people care? Why don’t they care? If they care, why aren’t their actions necessarily following their beliefs?”

Joseph Carroll (B.S. land use and water studies ’15) says that the water studies program allowed him to combine a personal passion with applicable career options.

“I chose to pursue the water studies minor to learn more about the most important and diminishing resource in our state,” he says. “It will also make me more competitive in searching for water jobs.”

While earning his undergraduate degree, Carroll is working for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s water quality control division, writing certifications that address construction dewatering, storm water, hydrostatic testing and remediation.

To learn more, please visit msudenver.edu/owow/ or contact Tom Cech, Director, at 303-352-7400.

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