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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)

<u>Enrollments</u>	<u>Current</u>		<u>Projected</u>		
	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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