The Water Resources Management (WRM) program is an interdisciplinary graduate program leading to a master of science (M.S.) degree in water resources management. The program addresses the complex, interdisciplinary aspects of managing water resources by helping students integrate the biological and physical sciences (which identify and assess problems) with engineering (which defines technological alternatives) as well as law and the social sciences (which assess needs and potential for institutional response). Through the WRM program, a student gains breadth in relevant planning and management areas while developing depth in an area specialty.

The water resources management degree is designed to prepare students for employment as water resources management professionals. Rather than conduct individual research projects, WRM students participate in a summer group practicum workshop with a water resources management focus. Students who wish to add individual research credentials to their records frequently arrange to complete a second, simultaneous master’s program in one of the university’s traditional departments. Those interested primarily in individual research may wish to consider the Nelson Institute’s Environment and Resources program as an alternative. The WRM program does not offer a doctoral degree.

Any person who attended an accredited institution and earned an undergraduate degree there in the biological sciences, earth sciences, economics, education, engineering, history, journalism, landscape architecture, law, mathematics, physical science, political science, urban and regional planning, or other relevant field may apply for admission to the WRM program.

The WRM M.S. contains an alternate reduced-credit curricular path for those who have at least three years of pertinent professional experience or for those advanced students who already have a related master’s degree prior to entering the program. This path can be pursued with the consultation of one’s faculty advisory committee once that candidate is enrolled in the program. The candidate’s advisory committee and the program chairperson make the final determination as to whether or not the alternate reduced-credit path is appropriate. See Requirements (p.) for more details.