Hydrologic Science and Engineering

Degrees Offered

- Master of Science (Hydrology), Non-thesis
- Master of Science (Hydrology), Thesis
- Doctor of Philosophy (Hydrology)

Program Description

Hydrologic Science and Engineering (HSE) is comprised of faculty from several different Mines departments and offers interdisciplinary graduate degrees in hydrology.

The program offers programs of study in fundamental hydrologic science and applied hydrology with engineering applications. Our program encompasses groundwater hydrology, surface-water hydrology, vadose-zone hydrology, watershed hydrology, contaminant transport and fate, contaminant remediation, hydrogeophysics, and water policy/law.

HSE requires a core study of formal graduate courses for all degrees. Programs of study are interdisciplinary in nature, and coursework is obtained from multiple departments at Mines and is approved for each student by the student’s advisor and thesis committee.

To achieve the Master of Science (MS) degree, students may elect the Non-Thesis option, based exclusively upon coursework and an independent study project or a designated design course, or the Thesis option. The thesis option is comprised of coursework in combination with individual laboratory, modeling and/or field research performed under the guidance of a faculty advisor and presented in a written thesis approved by the student’s committee.

To achieve the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree, students are expected to complete a combination of coursework and novel, original research, under the guidance of a faculty advisor and Doctoral committee, which culminates in a significant scholarly contribution to a specialized field in hydrologic sciences or engineering. Full-time enrollment is expected and leads to the greatest success, although part-time enrollment may be allowed under special circumstances. All doctoral students must complete the full-time, on-campus residency requirements.

Currently, students will apply to the Hydrology program through the Graduate School and be assigned to the HSE participating department of the student's HSE advisor. Participating units include: Chemistry and Geochemistry, Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE), Geology and Geological Engineering (GE), Geophysical Engineering, Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS), Mechanical Engineering (ME), Mining Engineering (MN), and Petroleum Engineering (PE). HSE is part of the Western Regional Graduate Program (WICHE), a recognition that designates the programs as unique within the Western United States. An important benefit of this designation is that students from several western states are given the tuition status of Colorado residents. These states include Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

For more information on program curriculum please refer to the HSE website at hydrology.mines.edu.

Program Requirements

MS Non-Thesis: 30 credits total, including a design course or independent study. (See a list of design courses below)

MS Thesis: 30 credits total, consisting of 24 credits of coursework and 6 credits of thesis credit. Students must also write and orally defend a research thesis.

PhD: 72 total credits, consisting of coursework (at least 36 h), and research (at least 24 h). Students must also successfully complete qualifying examinations, write and defend a dissertation proposal, write and defend a doctoral dissertation, and are expected to submit the dissertation work for publication in scholarly journals.

Thesis & Dissertation Committee Requirements

Students must meet the general requirements listed in the graduate bulletin section Graduate Degrees and Requirements. In addition, the student’s advisor or co-advisor must be an HSE faculty member. For MS thesis students, at least two committee members must be members of the HSE faculty. For doctoral students, at least 2 faculty on the committee must be a member of the HSE faculty. For PhD committee the required at-large member must be from a Mines department outside the student's home department, and where applicable, outside the students minor department.

Prerequisites

- baccalaureate degree in a science or engineering discipline
- college calculus: two semesters required
- differential equations: one semester required
- college physics: one semester required
- college chemistry: two semesters required
- college statistics: one semester required
- fluid mechanics

Note that some prerequisites may be completed in the first few semesters of the graduate program if approved by the HSE Director/ Program Manager. Contact Cassie Glenn for questions - caungst@mines.edu

Mines’ Combined Undergraduate / Graduate Degree Program

Students enrolled in Mines’ combined undergraduate/graduate program may double count up to six credits which were used in fulfilling the requirements of their undergraduate degree at Mines, towards their graduate program. Any 400+ level courses that count towards the undergraduate degree requirements as "Elective Coursework" or any 500+ level course, may be used for the purposes of double-counting at the discretion of the graduate advisor. These courses must have been passed with a "B-" or better, not be substitutes for required coursework, and meet all other University, Department, Division, and Program requirements for graduate credit.

Required Curriculum

Students will work with their academic advisors and graduate thesis committees to establish plans of study that best fit their individual interests and goals. Each student will develop and submit a plan of study to their advisor during the first semester of enrollment. Doctoral students may transfer in credits from an earned MS graduate program according to requirements listed in the Graduate Degrees and Requirements.
section of the graduate bulletin, and after approval by the student’s thesis committee.

Core Curriculum
Curriculum areas of emphasis consist of core courses, and electives. Core courses cover four areas of knowledge: Groundwater, Surface Water, Chemistry, and Contaminant Fate and Transport. Students can elect to take 9 or 12 credits of core curriculum depending on selected option below. Courses that meet core requirements include the following:

Option #1 (9 credit hrs.)
GEGN466 GROUNDWATER ENGINEERING 3.0
GEGN582 INTEGRATED SURFACE WATER HYDROLOGY 3.0
CEEN/GEGN587 HYDROCHEMICAL AND TRANSPORT PROCESSES 3.0

Option #2 (12 credit hrs.)
GEGN466 GROUNDWATER ENGINEERING 3.0
GEGN582 INTEGRATED SURFACE WATER HYDROLOGY 3.0
CEEN550 PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY 3.0

AND Choose one of the following:
CEEN584 SUBSURFACE CONTAMINANT TRANSPORT 3.0
CEEN580 CHEMICAL FATE AND TRANSPORT IN THE ENVIRONMENT 3.0

Students who have completed coursework for a previous degree that satisfies one of these requirements can get core curriculum requirements waived with the appropriate Waiver Form and approval of advisor.

In addition, a fluid mechanics class is required for students to complete the HSE degree programs. If a student has previously taken a fluid mechanics course (for example as part of an undergraduate degree), then this requirement is met; if a student has not previously taken a fluid mechanics course this requirement can be satisfied by taking: GEGN/CEEN 585 - Fluid Mechanics for Hydrology.

Areas of Specialization
Students may choose to complete an Area of Specialization within the MS in Hydrology degrees by taking additional defined courses. These areas of specialization are: Hydrogeophysics, Hydrobiogeochemistry, and Hydrology, Policy, and Management. The Area of Specialization will appear on the transcripts of students who register for and complete the required coursework. Courses required for these Areas of Specialization are:

1. Hydrogeophysics:
GPGN574 ADVANCED HYDROGEOPHYSICS 3.0
GPGN533 GEOPHYSICAL DATA INTEGRATION & GEOSTATISTICS 3.0
GPGN570 APPLICATIONS OF SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING 3.0
or GPGN520 ELECTRICAL AND ELECTROMAGNETIC EXPLORATION 3.0

2. Hydrobiogeochemistry
Students choose three of the following course with at least one from each of microbiology focused and geochemistry focused courses. Students with a Hydrobiogeochemistry Area of Specialization encouraged to enroll in CEEN550 and a separate Contaminant Fate and Transport course (CEEN580 or CEEN584) to satisfy the HSE core, leaving GEGN586 and CEEN551 as the geochemistry focused courses.

Microbiology Focus:
CEEN562 ENVIRONMENTAL GEOMICROBIOLOGY 3.0
CEEN560 MOLECULAR MICROBIAL ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT 3.0

Geochemistry Focus:
CEEN550 PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY 3.0
GEGN586 NUMERICAL MODELING OF GEOCHEMICAL SYSTEMS 3.0
CEEN551 ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 3.0

3. Hydrology, Policy, and Management
Students pursuing the Hydrology, Policy, and Management specialty track will choose two of the following three courses focused on water policy and management.

EBGN537 ECONOMICS OF WATER 3.0
HASS588 GLOBAL WATER POLITICS AND POLICY 3.0
HASS584 US WATER POLITICS AND POLICY 3.0

In addition, students will choose a third course from a broader list that also includes courses in complementary areas of communication, economics, law, philosophy, and policy. Current course options are listed below. Because course options are continually expanding, additional complementary courses (beyond those listed here) may be approved on an ad hoc basis by the coordinator of the Hydrology, Policy, and Management track and the HSE program director in response to individual student requests.

EBGN537 ECONOMICS OF WATER 3.0
EBGN570 ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS 3.0
HASS521 ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY 3.0
HASS523 ADVANCED SCIENCE COMMUNICATION 3.0
HASS525 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION 3.0
HASS560 GEOPOLITICS OF NATURAL RESOURCES 3.0
HASS565 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY 3.0
HASS568 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE 3.0
HASS588 GLOBAL WATER POLITICS AND POLICY 3.0
HASS584 US WATER POLITICS AND POLICY 3.0
HASS593 NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY POLICY: THEORIES AND PRACTICE 3.0
MNGN571 ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SOCIETY 3.0
PEGN530 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND SUSTAINABILITY 3.0

A grade of B- or better is required in all core classes for graduation.

Design Courses
For Non-Thesis MS students, the following is a list of Design Courses that may be completed in lieu of an Independent Study:

CEEN515 HILLSLOPE HYDROLOGY AND STABILITY 3.0
CEEN581 WATERSHED SYSTEMS MODELING 3.0
CEEN575 HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE REMEDIATION 3.0
CEEN584 SUBSURFACE CONTAMINANT TRANSPORT 3.0
Elective courses may be chosen from the approved list below or as approved by your advisor or thesis committee.

**Department of Chemistry**
James Ranville, Professor
Bettina Voelker, Professor

**Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering**
Eric Anderson, Associate Professor
Christopher Higgins, Professor
Tessa Illangasekare, Professor and AMAX Distinguished Chair
Ning Lu, Professor
Junko Munakata Marr, Professor and Department Head CEE
John McCray, Professor
John Spear, Professor

**Department of Economics and Business**
Steven M. Smith, Assistant Professor

**Department of Geology and Geological Engineering**
Adrienne Marshall, Assistant Professor, Geology and Geological Engineering
Reed Maxwell, Professor
Danica Roth, Assistant Professor
Paul Santi, Professor
Kamini Singha, Professor
Alexis Sitchler, Associate Professor
Wendy Zhou, Professor

**Department of Geophysics**
John Bradford, Vice President for Global Initiatives
Brandon Dugan, Professor and Baker Hughes Chair in Petrophysics & Borehole Geophysics and Associate Department Head GP
Matthew Siegfried, Assistant Professor

**Department of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences**
Hussein Amery, Professor
Adrienne Kroepsch, Assistant Professor

**Department of Mechanical Engineering**
Nils Tilton, Associate Professor

**Department of Mining Engineering**
Rennie Kaunda, Assistant Professor
Department of Petroleum Engineering
Yu-Shu Wu, Professor