Hydrologic Science and Engineering

Degrees Offered

- Master of Science (Hydrology), Thesis option
- Master of Science (Hydrology), Non-thesis option
- 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 (catalog.mines.edu/graduate/registrationandtuitionclassification).

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

MS Non-Thesis: 30 credit hours total, consisting of 27 credit hours of coursework and 3 credit hours of independent study or completion of an approved 3 credit hour Design Course*. PhD: 72 total credit hours, consisting of coursework (at least 36 h post-baccalaureate), 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

Note that some prerequisites may be completed in the first few semesters of the graduate program if approved by the HSE Director.

Mines’ Combined Undergraduate / Graduate Degree Program

Students enrolled in Mines’ combined undergraduate/graduate program (meaning uninterrupted registration from the time the student earns a Mines undergraduate degree to the time the student begins a Mines graduate degree) may double count up to six hours of 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 (catalog.mines.edu/graduate/programs) 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. Courses that meet core requirements in these four areas include the following:

Groundwater:

GEGN466 GROUNDWATER ENGINEERING 3.0

Surface Water:

GEGN582 INTEGRATED SURFACE WATER HYDROLOGY 3.0

Chemistry:

CEEN/GEGN587 HYDROGEOCHEMICAL PROCESSES 3.0
CEEN550 PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY 3.0

Chemical Fate and Transport:

CEEN/GEGN587 HYDROGEOCHEMICAL PROCESSES 3.0
CEEN584 SUBSURFACE CONTAMINANT TRANSPORT 3.0
CEEN580 CHEMICAL FATE AND TRANSPORT IN THE ENVIRONMENT 3.0

Total Semester Hrs: 9 or 12

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:

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:

GPGN 574: Groundwater Geophysics
GPGN 533: Geophysical Data Integration & Geostatistics
GPGN 570: Satellite Remote Sensing
or GPGN 520: Advanced Electrical and Electromagnetic Methods

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:

CEEN 562 Environmental Geomicrobiology
CEEN 560 Molecular microbial ecology and the environment

Geochemistry focus:

CEEN550: Principles of Environmental Chemistry
GEGN 586: Numerical modeling of geochemical systems
CEEN551: Environmental Organic Chemistry

3. Hydrology, Policy, and Management

Students wanting a Hydrology, Policy, and Management track will choose 3 of the following 4 courses.

HASS588: Global Water Politics & Policy
HASS584: U.S. Water Politics & Policy
EBGN537: Water Economics
HASS525: Environmental Communication

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

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
GEGN532 GEOLOGICAL DATA ANALYSIS 3.0
GEGN575 APPLICATIONS OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS 3.0
GEGN583 MATHEMATICAL MODELING OF GROUNDWATER SYSTEMS 3.0
GEGN584 FIELD METHODS IN HYDROLOGY 3.0
GEGN586 NUMERICAL MODELING OF GEOCHEMICAL SYSTEMS 3.0

Elective courses may be chosen from the approved list below or as approved by your advisor or thesis committee.

CEEN471 WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND DESIGN 3.0
CEEN511 UNSATURATED SOIL MECHANICS 3.0
CEEN512 SOIL BEHAVIOR 3.0
CEEN515 HILLSLOPE HYDROLOGY AND STABILITY 3.0
CEEN560 MOLECULAR MICROBIAL ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT 3.0
CEEN562 ENVIRONMENTAL GEOMICROBIOLOGY 3.0
CEEN570 WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT 3.0
CEEN571 ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT ENGINEERING AND WATER REUSE 3.0
CEEN575 HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE REMEDIATION 3.0
CEEN581 WATERSHED SYSTEMS MODELING 3.0
CEEN582 MATHEMATICAL MODELING OF ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS 3.0
CEEN611 MULTIPHASE CONTAMINANT TRANSPORT 3.0
GEGN470 GROUND-WATER ENGINEERING DESIGN 3.0
GEGN532 GEOLOGICAL DATA ANALYSIS 3.0
GEGN573 GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING SITE INVESTIGATION 3.0
GEGN575 APPLICATIONS OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS 3.0
GEGN581 ANALYTICAL HYDROLOGY 3.0
GEGN584 FIELD METHODS IN HYDROLOGY 3.0
GEGN586 NUMERICAL MODELING OF GEOCHEMICAL SYSTEMS 3.0
GEOL540 ISOTOPE GEOCHEMISTRY AND GEOCHRONOLOGY 3.0
GPGN470 APPLICATIONS OF SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING 3.0
MATH530 STATISTICAL METHODS I 3.0
MATH531 STATISTICAL METHODS II 3.0
MATH532 SPATIAL STATISTICS 3.0
EBGN510 NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS 3.0
HASS588 GLOBAL WATER POLITICS AND POLICY 3.0

Directors
Jonathan (Josh) Sharp, HSE Director, Civil & Environmental Engineering
Alexis Sitchler, HSE Associate Director, Geology & Geological Engineering

Department of Chemistry and Geochemistry
James Ranville, Professor
Bettina Voelker, Professor

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Christopher Higgins, Associate Professor
Terri Hogue, Professor
Tissa Illangasekare, Professor and AMAX Distinguished Chair
Ning Lu, Professor
Junko Munakata Marr, Associate Professor
John McCray, Professor & Department Head Civil & Environmental Engineering
Jonathan Sharp, Associate Professor
John Spear, Professor

Department of Geology and Geological Engineering
David Benson, Professor
Reed Maxwell, Professor
Danica Roth, Assistant Professor
Paul Santi, Professor
Kamini Singha, Professor
Alexis Stitchler, Associate Professor
Wendy Zhou, Associate Professor and Graduate Dean

Department of Geophysics
John Bradford, Professor & Department Head of Geophysics
Brandon Dugan, Associate Professor
Yaoguo Li, Professor
Whitney Trainor-Guitton, Assistant Professor

Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
Hussein Amery, Professor
Adrianne Kroepsch, Assistant Professor

Department of Mechanical Engineering
Nils Tilton, Assistant Professor

Department of Petroleum Engineering
Yu-Shu Wu, Professor

Mining Engineering
Rennie Kaunda, Assistant Professor

Economics & Business
Steven M. Smith, Assistant Professor