

GRADUATE PORTFOLIO PROGRAM IN INTEGRATED WATERSHED SCIENCE

The Environmental Science Institute
The University of Texas at Austin

Program Description

The Graduate Portfolio Program in Integrated Watershed Science provides Master's and doctoral students with an interdisciplinary framework to study and research issues related to understanding the processes that govern how watersheds function – from physical and biological forces to cultural and political influences. The objectives of the program are:

- introduce students to critical and analytical tools in the field of integrated watershed science;
- instruct students in the application of theoretical and conceptual tools of analysis and research on integrated watershed science;
- provide opportunities for participation in practical applications in the field of integrated watershed science; and
- to prepare students for leadership roles in academic and professional practice.

Portfolio programs are offered at the University of Texas at Austin to introduce students to cross-disciplinary areas of academic inquiry while completing degree requirements in an established discipline. Portfolio programs are not degree programs; instead they provide an opportunity for graduate students to orient their studies to address a specific interdisciplinary topic. They are similar to a minor area of study or a certificate program at other institutions.

Who Can Apply: The Integrated Watersheds GPP is open to graduate students in both masters and doctoral programs. You must be in good standing with your degree program, and you must be in a participating department (see list below). New departments can easily be added to the program, so if your department is not listed please contact the Environmental Science Institute.

Participating Departments and Colleges:

To be eligible for the Integrated Watersheds Graduate Portfolio Program, students must be admitted to a graduate degree program in one of the following UT Austin academic units:

Jackson School of Geosciences
Department of Civil Engineering (College of Engineering)
School of Architecture
LBJ School of Public Affairs
School of Law
Marine Science Institute (College of Natural Sciences)
Department of Geography and the Environment (College of Liberal Arts)
Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (College of Natural Sciences)
Graduate Program in Plant Biology (College of Natural Sciences)

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If your department is not listed: It is not difficult to add new academic units to the program. If you are interested in the program please ask your advisor to contact the Environmental Science Institute, and we will try to add your department as quickly as possible.

Program Requirements

The requirements for the program include coursework and a scholarly work of some sort. Each of these elements is described in the following paragraphs.

Course and Semester Hour Credit Requirements

Students in the must complete four thematically-related courses for twelve credit hours. Students are encouraged to develop a list of courses unique to their own program of work. The courses can be part of your required coursework for your degree, but at most one course may be taken as an independent study. The course requirements are:

1. one course on topics in integrated watershed science or engineering;
2. one course on topics in integrated watershed policy or planning;
3. one course in integrated watershed science that contains a substantial field component.
4. one advanced elective course in the field of integrated watershed science;

* At least two of the above courses should be outside of the student's home department.

** International experiences/courses taken for credit may count for up to two of the above courses as approved by the Faculty Steering Committee..

How to Choose Courses

The courses you choose should reflect a thematic course of study specific to your research interests.

A list of approved courses that meet these requirements is available online at the url listed below. However there may be courses not listed that are as appropriate or more appropriate for your particular course of study.

List of approved courses: <http://www.esi.utexas.edu/watersheds/portfolio.html>

Courses That Are Not Listed

Courses that are not on the online list may be used to fulfill your course requirements for the portfolio plan if they are approved by the Faculty Steering Committee. If you would like to include a course that is not on the list you can either:

- A) submit a request to have the course added to the overall list of courses with an explanation of why this course fulfills one of the requirements of the Integrated Watershed Science Graduate Portfolio Plan; or
- B) submit a request that the course fulfill one of the course requirements for your particular area of study and why this particular course is appropriate.

Scholarly Product

At least once during her/his graduate program, each student is required to present a scholarly product that deals in some way with the interdisciplinary implications of their research or study. Examples of this product can include, but are not limited to: a poster, an oral presentation or abstract submitted to a professional meeting; a thesis or dissertation chapter that discusses the broader implications of the research from an interdisciplinary standpoint; a paper submitted in conjunction with another professional outside of the student's field of study. The Faculty Steering Committee will review and approve that this product meets this requirement.

Additional Requirements

- 1) A minimum portfolio GPA of 3.0 and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 must be maintained throughout participation in the program.
- 2) An independent study or a conference course may be substituted for no more than one course and must be approved by the Faculty Steering Committee.
- 3) Master's students can substitute one course (three credits) with an internship that includes a substantial focus on watershed issues. Doctoral students are not allowed to substitute an internship for credit.
- 4) Availability of enrollment space for any graduate student within any listed course is subject to the instructor's permission.

The Approved course list begins on Page 4 and examples of thematic courses of study are provided on Page 7.

When can you apply to the program?

You may apply to the program at any point in your graduate study, however the faculty steering committee will meet only once per semester. Students are strongly advised to apply two semesters before they plan to graduate. Applications can be accepted later than this, but in this case students should schedule a meeting with an ESI representative and their advisor to make sure that their application can be processed.

The Admission Process

UT-Austin graduate students may apply to the program at any point in their graduate study. Each applicant must be in good standing in a graduate degree program in one of the participating units listed above. Applicants must submit the Program Application Form (Page 8) and the following documents:

- An academic summary from the Registrar's Office as proof of enrollment and good academic standing in an approved graduate degree program.
- A statement from the student's graduate advisor/dissertation supervisor or other such person overseeing the applicant's graduate course of study indicating support of the candidate's participation.
- A statement from an affiliated faculty member in the student's Participating Unit indicating support of the candidate's participation.
- a one-page essay describing the relationship of integrated watershed science to the your degree program and career goals and interests; and
- a list and written rationale for the four courses (twelve hours) to be used for the portfolio program.

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Applications will be reviewed by the Faculty Steering Committee. Admission to the program will be selective and the Faculty Steering Committee reserves the right to admit or reject applicants based on evaluation of applications and program capacity. The program is administered by the Environmental Science Institute. If you have questions, please contact the Jay Banner at banner@mail.utexas.edu or 512/471-5016. For information on the Environmental Science Institute, visit <http://www.esi.utexas.edu>.

Affiliated Faculty Members

The following is the list of faculty members affiliated with the program. These individuals are familiar with the intent of the program and have agreed to have their courses listed in the Approved Course list.

<u>School or Department</u>	<u>Faculty Member</u>
Architecture	Steven Moore
Biology	Mathew Leibold, Tim Keitt, Sahotra Sarkar, Camille Parmesan, Christine Hawkes, Richard Richardson
Civil Engineering	Ben Hodges, Daene McKinney, David Maidment
Community & Regional Planning	Kent Butler, Frederick Steiner
School of Law	Wendy Wagner
Marine Science Institute	Kenneth H. Dunton, Henrietta Edmonds, Deana L. Erdner, G. Joan Holt, Izhar A. Khan, James W. McClelland, Peter Thomas
Economics	Don Fullerton, Roberton Williams
Geography & the Environment	Paul Hudson, Kelley Crews-Meyer, Rob Dull, Rodrigo Sierra, Ken Young
Public Policy	David Eaton
Geology	Jay Banner, Jack Sharp, Liang Yang, Phil Bennet

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PORTFOLIO APPLICATION FORM

Please fill out the form as completely as possible.

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Current Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email Address

() -
Phone

Department

Advisor

Degree Sought (Master's or Doctoral)

Current GPA

/
Expected Graduation Date

UTEID

Proposed Thematic Course of Study

Proposed Coursework to Fulfill the Portfolio Program Requirements:

Course #	Title	Instructor	Semester	Year

Student Signature (type your name above)

Date

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Checklist of required documents:

1. UT Academic Summary
2. Letter of support from the applicant's graduate advisor, dissertation supervisor, or individual overseeing the student's graduate course of study
3. Letter of support from an affiliated faculty member in the student's Participating Unit
4. One-page essay describing the relationship of the program to the student's degree program, career goals and interests, and a proposed thematic course of study
5. List of four courses (twelve credit hours) and written rationale of each course to be completed for the program

Application materials may be submitted electronically to ksebenoler@mail.utexas.edu or mail to:

**Watershed Portfolio Program
Environmental Science Institute
University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station C1100
Austin TX 78712**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *When should I submit an application for the program?*
You should submit an application at least two semesters before your graduation date. If you plan to graduate in the spring or summer, you should submit your application by the fall deadline (August 15). If you plan to graduate in the fall, you should submit your application by the spring deadline (January 15). If you have to rush an application, contact the Environmental Science Institute.
2. *If I meet all of the program requirements, will my application be automatically accepted?*
Not necessarily. The program is competitive and not all applications will be accepted due to administrative limitations and University policy. The program will generally accept up to 15 new graduate students per year.
3. *Can I use courses for the program that I have taken in previous semesters?*
Yes, you can fulfill the program's course requirements with courses you have successfully completed in previous semesters. These courses must be listed on the Approved Course list.
4. *Are there other portfolio programs at UT?*
Yes, there are several other portfolio programs available at UT in a variety of subjects. The Graduate School maintains a list of all portfolio programs at: <http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/docport/index.html>
5. *Will my successful participation in the program be reflected on my transcript?*
Yes, students who complete all of the program requirements will have a line added to their transcript that reads, "With Certification in the Graduate Portfolio Program in Integrated Watershed Science."