



**Oregon State**  
University

# Water Resources Policy and Management

Masters of Science (MS) Degree  
Graduate Information Handbook<sup>1</sup>  
Academic Year 2023-2024

Oregon State University  
124 SW 26th Street | 116 Gilmore Hall  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

For additional program information, visit the Water Resources Graduate Program [web site](#). Visit the OSU Graduate School website, <https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/> for Graduate School information.

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks to the OSU Geography Program and the Graduate School for the Handbook template and the Public Policy program for many details including what makes a good research paper. Updated 11-07-2022.

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## 1. Contact Information

### General Contact Information

#### **Director, Water Resources Graduate Program**

Dr. Stephen Good ([Stephen.Good@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Stephen.Good@oregonstate.edu); 7-1215)

The Director of the Water Resources Graduate Program is involved in admission of graduate students, provides general orientation to the WRGP, ensures that the graduate program is implemented and standards are maintained, and assists in the solution of any major problems that may arise during a student's programs.

#### **Associate Director WRPM**

Dr. Erika Wolters ([Erika.Wolters@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Erika.Wolters@oregonstate.edu); 7-1421)

The Associate Director of the Water Resources Policy and Management degree is involved in admission of graduate students, the development and review of required courses, provides oversight of WRPM program, and will advise and guide students as necessary.

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Catherine Mullins ([Catherine.Mullins@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Catherine.Mullins@oregonstate.edu); 7-2041)

The Administrative Assistant is the administrative point person for the WRGP and is the person to go to for items such as scheduling of classes. GTA assignments, travel pre-approval and re-imbursement, and course overrides

**WRGP Web site:** <http://oregonstate.edu/gradwater/>

#### **University Emergency Contacts**

OSU is dedicated to providing a safe and secure learning and living environment for its community members. [The Department of Public Safety](#) provides resources, information, emergency phone numbers, and protocols for maintaining personal safety. Sign up for [OSU Alerts](#) to get timely messages delivered right to your phone or inbox regarding university closures and other emergencies.

## 2. Schedule for M.S. Students

Schedule for Non-thesis Program<sup>2</sup>

(Full-time Students)

Activity	When
1. Identify at least two faculty members who you are interested in working with. You are encouraged to contact them during your application process.	1. Prior to application
2. Confirm major advisor	2. After application, prior to acceptance.
3. Initial advising and selection of first term classes	3. Before first term classes begin
4. Select two additional committee members and convene a meeting to discuss program of courses and project direction; <b>file graduate program with Graduate School at least 15 weeks before final exam for the degree.</b>	4. 1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> term (The Graduate School requires submission of the program before completion of the first 18 credits of graduate coursework)
5. Prepare project proposal in consultation with major professor	5. 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> term You should present your project proposal at your 1 <sup>st</sup> committee meeting
6. Conduct project research. Seek financial support for proposed project as needed.	6. Ongoing and as needed
7. Complete courses in Graduate Program	7. Recommended by 4 <sup>th</sup> term
8. Submit draft of project paper to major professor	8. At least one term before oral examination
9. Revise and resubmit project paper based on major professor's comments to committee members, schedule final oral exam	9. At least two weeks before oral examination
10. Oral examination	10. 4 <sup>th</sup> term or later, but only with approval of major professor
11. Submit one electronic PDF copy of the final, revised project paper to the advisor.	11. After final approval by major professor
12. Exit interview	

<sup>2</sup> Check with Graduate School for specific deadlines for graduation

### 3. Schedule for M.S. Students

#### Schedule for Thesis Program<sup>3</sup>

(Full-time Students)

Activity	When
1. Identify at least two faculty members you are interested in working with. You may wish to contact them prior to or during the application process.	1. Prior to application
2. Confirm major advisor.	2. After application, prior to acceptance.
3. Initial advising and selection of first term classes	3. Before first term classes begin
4. Select two additional committee members and arrange for a Graduate Representative through the Graduate School; convene committee to discuss program of courses and research direction; <b>file graduate Program of Study with Graduate School</b>	4. 1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> term (The Graduate School requires submission of the program before completion of the first 18 credits of graduate coursework)
5. Prepare research proposal in consultation with major professor; after approval, circulate proposal to all committee members and revise proposal based on comments.	5. 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> term You should present your project proposal at your 1 <sup>st</sup> committee meeting
6. Conduct thesis research. Seek financial support for proposed project as needed.	6. Ongoing and as needed
7. Complete courses in Graduate Program	7. Recommended by 4 <sup>th</sup> term
8. Submit draft of thesis to major professor; revise as necessary	8. At least one term before oral examination
9. Submit copies of complete thesis to committee members	9. At least two weeks before oral examination
10. <b>Schedule final defense with Graduate School</b> and submit pretext pages to Graduate School for editing	10. At least two weeks prior to oral examination; check Graduate School website
11. Oral examination	11. 4 <sup>th</sup> term or later, but only with approval of major professor
12. Submit one electronic PDF copy of the final, revised thesis to the advisor, and one electronic PDF copy to the OSU ScholarsArchive with the signed ETD form.	12. Within six weeks of oral examination, shorter deadlines may apply at end of term to avoid having to register for the following term, check with Graduate School
13. Exit interview	

<sup>3</sup> Check with Graduate School for specific deadlines for graduation  
<https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/current/doctoral-students#deadlines>

## 4. Program Information and Policies

This handbook was developed to provide information to graduate students in the Water Resources Policy and Management program at Oregon State University. It consolidates information for students entering a degree program in 2019 or later. Please refer to the OSU Graduate School web site <http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/> for the *Graduate School Guide to Success* and for first-hand information on important Graduate School regulations.

### 4.1 Overview/background of program

Students enrolled in the Water Resources Policy and Management program will be broadly trained to undertake careers in managing water resources and to make policy decisions in the public and private sector. Students entering the program should have a B.S. or B.A. degree from an accredited institution emphasizing natural resources, management, or policy with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale), and satisfactory GRE scores.

Graduates of the Water Resources Policy and Management degree program will have met program requirements (see section e below) and will have achieved program Graduate Learning Outcomes (see Appendix G).

### 4.2 Learning outcomes/competencies

See Appendix G for information on Learning Outcomes and Assessment of those outcomes

## 5. Degree options

The WRPM degree program offers the Master of Science degree.

## 6. Concentrations

A concentration in Water Cooperation and Diplomacy is available as part of the Joint Educational Programme in which OSU WRPM degree program partners with the University for Peace in Costa Rica and IHE-Delft in The Netherlands.

While the requirements for students in the WRPM degree program are essentially the same regardless of their area of concentration, there is a separate, additional handbook that provides additional, detailed information for students in the Water Cooperation and Diplomacy area of concentration within the Water Resources Policy and Management Degree Program. Be sure to read that handbook as well for information specific to your program.

## 7. Requirements for degree

Requirements for the M.S. degree are tailored to reflect the diversity of backgrounds of incoming students and to assure that everyone finishes the program with a common core of water resources policy and management knowledge beyond their particular specialization.

## 7.1 Coursework Requirements

This is accomplished through program requirements that include 6 credits of core Water Resources Graduate Program courses:

- WRP 524 Sociotechnical Aspects of Water Resources (3 cr.);
- WRP 507 Seminar and WRP 505 Journal Club (offered Fall term); *or* WRE 507 Seminar and WRE 505 Journal Club (offered Winter term) *or* WRS 507 Seminar and WRS 505 Journal Club (offered Spring term), and
- One more 1 cr. seminar (WRP, WRE, or WRS 507) - this seminar does not have to be taken with journal club.

In addition, students in the WRPM degree program are required to take 9 credits of methods and numerical skills courses, 6 credits of basic water science courses, 23 credits of policy and management courses (including PS 572 and PS 571), and a minimum of 3 credits of project or 6 credits of thesis preparation (see Program checklist). Students will work with their advisor to select elective courses and tailor an appropriate program of study. The student's achievement of the Graduate Learning Outcomes (see Appendix G) for the program will be assessed at the final examination.

A grade point average of 3.0 (a B average) is required for all courses taken as a graduate student (even if they are undergraduate courses), and for courses included in a graduate program. **Neither grades below C nor S/U grades are accepted on a graduate program.**

## 7.2 Research Requirements for the MS Degree

Graduate students are required to demonstrate the ability to define researchable problems, design research approaches, analyze relevant data, synthesize results, and report research findings in a succinct and logical manner. The WRPM allows students two alternatives to demonstrate their research competence. Students must complete either a research paper or a thesis. The decision on which option is most appropriate to a student's program is made jointly by the student and the major professor. The nature of the research topic, student's circumstances, time frames, career aspirations, advisor's availability, and research funding will all play a factor in making this decision. The learning outcomes and assessment methods are different for research carried out on the thesis track compared to the project-based research paper. One is not better than another. They are different.

The thesis track requires original research that makes a contribution to an academic discipline via a publication or publications that are judged to be of sufficient quality to appear in a peer reviewed journal. Publication in a journal as lead or co-author is expected (although not required) after the defense of the thesis.

Other students, hoping to acquire a set of skills and methods that can be applied to water resources issues in a governmental, non-governmental organization, or industry setting may choose, instead, to write up a project paper. The knowledge and skills acquired through coursework and an internship experience are applied in a capstone project and associated report that is relevant to the practice of science-based water resources policy



and management and is effectively communicated to its target audience. This report may be produced in conjunction with an internship experience. Appendix C compares the thesis and non-thesis options.

## 8. Project-based Master's Degree

**The Research Paper:** The research paper option is designed to expose students to research through a process that is more structured and less open-ended than the thesis option. As such, it can be done within one term if the student is well-organized, although early identification of the problem is recommended. Students often take longer to complete the process. Students should enroll for Research credits in their major professor's department to maintain full-time status while reducing course load to devote energy to the research paper.

Ideas for the research paper may come from other classes, work experience, or internships and will usually proceed through three steps:

- a. After consultation with the major professor, the student prepares a proposal, which includes a statement of the problem and the research design. Appendix D describes the components of the proposal. After obtaining approval, the student carries out the research and prepares a finished draft of the paper. See below for more specific details about the research paper. The major professor will provide at least one critical review of the paper in draft form.
- b. When the major professor decides the paper is ready to defend, the student will prepare a final copy of the research paper and distribute to committee members for review **at least two weeks prior to the defense.**
- c. The student schedules a meeting for the committee to come together to hear a defense of the paper and an examination to test the student's ability to integrate and interpret material learned in the program with emphasis on the work presented in the paper. Forms for scheduling the defense are available at the Graduate School website.

The research paper can be on any subject in water resources policy and management, as agreed upon by your committee. There are no limitations for preferences for a particular theoretical or methodological approach. The research paper should be at least 25 pages in length. The paper will be judged on how well the student addresses four goals:

- a. Illustrates an in-depth, detailed and nuanced understanding of a specific issue, topic, or question in water resources policy and management.
- b. Illustrates an awareness of the theoretical issues raised in the appropriate literature.
- c. Expresses ideas, concepts, and arguments with precision and rigor.
- d. Enlarges the reader's understanding of the issue and topic.

To achieve these goals, the research paper needs to have the following elements:

- a. *Title and Signature Page.* The paper needs a title page and a committee signature page similar to that specified in the requirements for Theses and Dissertations at OSU.
- b. *Introduction and Statement of the Problem:* The paper needs to have a clearly and concisely stated question, essay, and argument. The first pages should clarify the topic and how the subject will be approached and analyzed.
- c. *Literature Review:* The paper needs an extensive review of the literature on the subject. This review shows that you have immersed yourself in the subject, have read extensively about it, and have drawn your ideas and arguments from a variety of sources. The length of your literature review will vary by subject. The main purposes of the literature review are to show the reader that you know the subject and that you can place your thinking into ongoing research in the subject area. Your committee can help identify the relevant literature.
- d. *Discussion:* This section describes your results, analysis, and arguments in a readable and rigorous manner.
- e. *Conclusion:* This section summarizes your argument and shows how your work enhances our understanding of the subject.

Students are encouraged to post the final, revised version of their project paper on ScholarsArchive in the OSU Library (Water Resources community).

## 9. Thesis-based Master's Degree

**The Thesis:** While the thesis and research options share many similarities, the thesis is a more substantial commitment to research. Its length is not limited, and the process of research, writing, and defending the research usually takes place over several (3-4) terms. The thesis option is different from the non-thesis option in several ways including:

- a. the work is a substantial original contribution to the body of knowledge in the student's field,
- b. supervision of the thesis research is by a four-member committee, including a person chosen from a list of Graduate Council representatives;
- c. The thesis style is determined by the Graduate School document, Preparation of the Thesis, available from the Graduate School website. The Graduate School examines every thesis to ensure compliance with style requirements.
- d. Students can also choose to write their thesis as "publishable papers." This option is usually two publishable papers, which must be related in their overall research theme. A publishable paper is one that is targeted to a specific journal and is deemed publishable to the student's graduate committee. Student's using this style option must also include an introduction, literature review, and conclusion that tie the paper together into a common theme, all of which are bound together and submitted to the program as a thesis. The student's graduate committee and major professor must agree to this option before the student proceeds.
- e. A copy of the pretext pages of the Master's Thesis must be presented to the Graduate School for editing when scheduling the final oral examination at least one week prior to the examination. Additional copies of the thesis are distributed to the student's committee.

After consultation with the major professor, the student prepares a proposal, which includes a statement of the problem and the research design. Appendix D describes the components of the proposal. The student meets with the program committee to review the proposal and revise as necessary. After obtaining approval, the student carries out the research and prepares a finished draft of the thesis.

Since the thesis must meet the approval of a four-member committee, the major professor will insist on a high-quality product. If the work does not meet this standard, it will be redone or revised as often as necessary to meet the professor's expectation for a defensible thesis. When the major professor is satisfied with the thesis, the defense is scheduled and copies of the thesis are distributed to the committee for review at least two weeks prior to the scheduled defense.

## 10. Professional Experience

Every graduate student is encouraged to include some experience of a professional nature in their program. If they have never worked in water resources organization, it is highly encouraged that they schedule a one-term internship with an outside organization. Students interested in internships should work with their major advisor and with the Associate Director to identify available internships and expectations for academic performance.

In addition, each student should include other opportunities for professional development in their work before completion of the degree. Examples include:

1. Presentation of research results in a professional context such as:
  - a. Professional meeting
  - b. Internship report to client
  - c. A seminar open to the public (required for thesis students)
2. Preparation of a competitive grant proposal

## 11. Responsibilities for Completing Graduate Program

**The student** will assume the major responsibility for his/her graduate program, follow program and university requirements, meet all deadlines, and initiate all steps involved in obtaining the degree. The student should meet regularly with the major advisor to discuss progress or difficulties in research, course work, or other matters. If experiencing major difficulties with the major professor, the student should discuss the matter with the Associate Director of their sub-field or the Director of the Water Resources Graduate Program.

**The major professor** will advise and guide students in their graduate programs, be informed of student progress and difficulties, edit research proposals and theses before they are given to committee members, encourage active participation in seminars, regional and national scientific meetings, and include students in other professional activities as appropriate.

**Members of the student's graduate committee** will serve as experts in certain specialized fields, as interested editorial critics of the student's writing (especially the thesis), and as participants in the various meetings and examinations held during the student's program.

## 12. Description of the requirements for the final defense

### 12.1 The final defense for the thesis-based degree

When the major professor is satisfied with the thesis, the defense is scheduled and copies of the thesis are distributed to the committee for review at least one week prior to the scheduled defense. The student schedules a meeting for the committee to come together to hear a defense of the paper and an examination to test the student's ability to integrate and interpret material learned in the program with emphasis on the work presented in the paper. Forms for scheduling the defense are available at the Graduate School website.

A successful defense is determined by a vote of the committee. Even at the defense, committee members may insist on further revisions of the thesis before it is accepted. The Graduate School rules provide for a maximum of six weeks for revisions after the thesis defense. If more than six weeks elapse, a re-examination of the student may be required.

The oral defense focuses on the thesis, although questions pertaining to coursework are allowed. See Figure 1 for a typical defense agenda. Thesis presentations are open to the public, although the examination is closed. Defenses typically take about 2 hours to complete.

After a successful defense, a revised electronic (i.e., a pdf file) copy of the thesis is submitted to OSU Library ScholarsArchive (in the Water Resources community). An Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Submission Approval form (ETD) must be signed by the major advisor and the Director of the Water Resources Graduate Program and submitted to the Graduate School. See the Graduate School website for more information about electronic submittal of the thesis. The ETD form is submitted to the Graduate School along with a copy of the title page once the final thesis/dissertation is approved and uploaded to ScholarsArchive.

The Major Professor shall chair the program meeting and the examination portion of the defense. The Graduate Council Representative chairs the portion of the meetings that involve the evaluation of the student's performance on a thesis-option oral defense.

Figure 1. Typical Agenda for Oral Defense

Call to order and introductions  
Purpose and format of meeting  
Public presentation by student (approximately 20-30 minutes)  
Open question and answer (approximately 15 minutes)  
Visitors asked to leave and committee break (if necessary)  
Review and questioning of student by committee (this can include questions about both the research and the coursework)  
Student excused  
Committee discusses student's performance  
Committee votes on performance of student  
Student returns and results announced to student  
Graduate School forms signed

### 12.2 Defense for non-thesis degree

The first portion of a final defense is open to the public and includes a presentation by the student about the research. Faculty members and fellow students are encouraged to attend. After the presentation, audience members leave and the student is examined by committee members. At the conclusion of the examination, committee members meet in private to discuss the presentation and examination, vote whether to pass the student, and sign off on the examination form to the Graduate School.

The student should be fully prepared to answer any question from committee members as it relates to all course work and to go beyond description of the concepts to engage in a critical discourse that demonstrates the student's critical analysis and synthesis of all course work. The final oral defense takes approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours. See Figure 1 for a typical defense agenda.

If a student fails in the first attempt at the oral defense, a second re-examination may be held at the request of the student's major advisor and committee. A waiting period of three months between the failed defense and a re-examination is required to allow time for preparation of a successful defense.

## 13. Proposed timeline to degree completion

See Schedules on Pages 3 and 4 for the recommended timeline for degree completion for the thesis and non-thesis degrees.

Water Cooperation and Diplomacy students, see the WCD Handbook.

## 14. Committee membership

The makeup of the graduate committees is governed by the policies of the Graduate School and the Water Resources Graduate Program. The **minimum** committee sizes are as follows:

Degree	Major Prof	Minor/Other	Grad Rep	Total
Non-thesis	1	2	0	3
Thesis	1	2	1	4

No committee is official until approved by program and Graduate School administrators. Administrative review will use the following guidelines:

1. All committee members must be Graduate Faculty. Adjunct members from other universities or organizations may also serve if formally nominated and approved as Graduate Faculty in WRPM by the WRGP and the Graduate School
2. The committee must be appropriate to represent the proposed course of study and the relevant degree authority. All **members of the committee EXCEPT the Graduate Council Representative (GCR) must be members of the Water Resources Policy and Management graduate faculty.**

The Major Professor assumes principal responsibility for directing research activities. When the Major Professor is on a courtesy faculty appointment, a member of the Water Resources regular faculty must serve as co-chair of the thesis committee and must sign the approved thesis.

If the student chooses an optional minor, the Minor Professor must be from outside the WRGP unless the minor area is entirely within Water Resources (WRE or WRS). Graduate School rules require students to take at least fifteen credits for the minor and at least one course from the Minor Professor's department.

The student's committee for the M.S. degree consists of a minimum of three graduate faculty members: the major professor and two faculty members with some experience in the general area of the student's research area. In the thesis option, a Graduate Council Representative is chosen from a list provided by the Graduate School, and is a full voting member of the committee who attends all meetings, exams, and the final thesis defense. In the non-thesis option, there is no Graduate School representative on the committee.

## 15. Graduate Council Representative

A Graduate Council Representative (known as a GCR or Grad Rep) is required for all doctoral committees, all M.A.I.S. committees, and all master's degrees involving a thesis. Your GCR represents the OSU Graduate Council and ensures that all rules governing committee procedures are followed. Your GCR must be present at your formal exam(s), and will be responsible for some of the paperwork that the Graduate School requires. Per Graduate School guidelines, the GCR will also lead your committee's roundtable discussion following your final oral exam. Your GCR must be a graduate faculty member outside your major and minor area.



The GCR is a full voting member of your graduate committee. Many students select a GCRs who can also add disciplinary expertise. Select your GCR using the online GCR list generation tool

(<http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/forms#gcr>) and be sure to allow ample time for this selection process. If you run into difficulty finding a GCR to serve on your committee, you can re-generate the list until you find someone who is willing to serve.

## 16. Policy on non-OSU committee membership

Your [graduate committee](#) guides your course work and research and serves as your final examining committee. It is generally expected that all committee members or approved substitutes must be present for all formal meetings with the student (e.g. final oral exams). If you have a special case in which a committee member may need to participate remotely, you and your committee must assure that all the conditions for remote participation are met.

If the faculty member is not a member of the [Graduate Faculty](#) or is not approved for the role proposed, your major department/program will need to nominate the proposed member to act in those roles using the [Nomination to Graduate Faculty form](#). Committee structure is evaluated when your program of study is received by the Graduate School and when you schedule your formal examination(s).

## 17. Program/department specific funding opportunities (GTA, GRA, fellowships, awards, travel grants, etc.)

One or two program-specific GTA opportunities at the 0.4 FTE level are sometimes available from the WRGP. Usually, these are provided to second-year students who entered with prestigious fellowships in their first year, as support for the years following the fellowship year. Check with the Program Director to see if any program-specific GTA opportunities are available.

University regulations require all students with an assistantship to register for a minimum of 12 hours each term while employed as a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Research Assistant (RA). Graduate assistants may register for a maximum of 16 hours, but are advised to confer with their major professors or program director when registering for more than 12 credits to avoid potential overload. Students on an assistantship can maintain their full-time status, and avoid overloading their schedules by signing up for Thesis hours with their major professor to “top up” their load to the 12 credit minimum.

Thesis students can include a maximum of 12 credits of thesis hours on their graduate program, but may enroll for up to 16 thesis credits per term.

The WRGP awards four named fellowships each year, although dollar amounts may vary depending on donations. These are the Bill and Jane Jackson Scholarship (funded by

OSU alumni Bill and Jane Jackson), the Williamson Water Prize, the Faculty Excellence Scholarship (funded by donations from the faculty to students exhibiting excellence in scholarship) and the Alumni scholarship (funded by donations from alumni to reward excellence in service (especially to the Hydrophiles officers) along with excellence in scholarship.

The WRGP also nominates eligible students for fellowship and scholarship opportunities available through the Graduate School. Initial nomination of the student for fellowship and scholarship awards is done by the major professor. Selection of nominees is done by the Scholarship Committee, based on how well the student fits the criteria established for the scholarship.

## 18. Required program/degree milestones

See the schedules on Pages 3 and 4 for degree program milestones and benchmarks.

## 19. Role of the major professor

**The major professor** will advise and guide students in their graduate programs, be informed of student progress and difficulties, edit research proposals and theses before they are given to committee members, encourage active participation in seminars, regional and national scientific meetings, and include students in other professional activities as appropriate.

### Process for identifying or changing major professor

Students admitted to the Water Resources Policy and Management program as regular graduate students will have an advisor, also called the major professor, who has agreed to supervise the student's work at the time of admission. It is the responsibility of the student to seek acceptance by a member of the Water Resources faculty as the major professor. The decision is made upon mutual agreement between the student and the professor concerned and should be reported to the Water Resources Graduate Program Director to initiate the final stage of the admission process.

If it becomes necessary for a student to change major professor, the student will work with the Associate Director of the WRPM degree program and the Director of the Water Resources Graduate Program to identify a new major professor.

## 20. Process for filing program-specific grievances and petitions

The Water Resources Graduate Program requires that professional relationships be maintained between faculty and students. When situations arise with an instructor or professor that cause concern, the student is encouraged to discuss the problem with that instructor or professor first. If the student is not satisfied with the response from the instructor or professor, the student is encouraged to make written appeal through the following chain of academic administrators until a conclusion is reached: a) Associate



Director – WRPM; b) WRGP Director; c) Associate Dean of the Graduate School; d) Dean of the Graduate School; 3) Provost.

A student may request an exception to policy by petitioning the WRPM Curriculum Committee in writing, through his or her major professor or the WRGP Program Director. A copy of the request must be filed with the program office.

## 21. Deadlines related to Program of Study, Exam Paperwork, etc.

Please following the following [link](#) for the minimum deadlines as defined by the Graduate School. Programs can require a more rigorous set of deadlines. Students are expected to check with their program and the Graduate School regarding specific deadlines unique to the term and academic year they plan to complete their degree requirements.

## 22. Process for measuring and communicating a review of satisfactory progress

**Definition of satisfactory progress:** Satisfactory progress toward completing a graduate degree in the WRGP requires:

1. Participating in an annual assessment survey showing adequate progress in coursework, and timely compliance with all development of thesis or writing project as evaluated by major professor and the rest of the student's graduate committee, Graduate School and degree program requirements\*\* for committee formation, committee meetings, project proposal, submission of forms and information, participation in seminars and other activities expected of a student, scholar and member of the WRGP.
2. Maintaining a GPA of 3.00 or better for all courses taken as a graduate student,
3. Successfully passing relevant exams (as outlined by the Graduate School),
4. Maintaining communication with the advisor and committee on the progress of the student's thesis or dissertation research.

\*Students who are restricted from full course loads may negotiate a longer time frame in consultation with the program director and their major professor.

Mechanisms of accountability begin with the annual progress assessment survey and completion and submission of annual progress form. Students are accountable for completing the annual assessment of progress survey and a self-assessment narrative. The advisor is responsible for meeting with the student to go over the survey and narrative, and for completion of the form submitted to the WRGP office. The Program Director is responsible for reading through the surveys, noting where there is concern that the student is not making satisfactory progress, and arranging to meet with those students.

If the student and advisor have completed an assessment of student process in the current year as part of the policies and procedures for the department of the major advisor, that assessment can be submitted to the program in lieu of the WRGP Assessment. It is the responsibility of the student and major professor in this case to ensure that the alternative assessment is submitted to the Director and Administrative Assistant.

See Appendix H for the complete description of the Assessment of Academic Progress.

## 23. Registration

The OSU Schedule of Classes is available online and contains academic regulations and registration procedures that apply to all students in the university, as well as the final examination week schedule. The online [catalog](#) is the source for up-to-date changes for the current and immediately upcoming term. It is your responsibility to register for the appropriate number of credits that may be required for any funding eligibility and/or to meet the requirements of the continuous enrollment policy. Problems arising from registration procedures, such as late registration, adding or withdrawing from courses after deadlines, or late changes from letter or S/U grading are resolved through the [petition for late change in registration](#) filed with the Graduate School. A late registration fee may be applied.

Students are responsible for staying current on registration requirements that may supersede the Graduate School requirements (i.e., international, financial aid, veteran's).

## 24. Minimum Course Loads

Course load requirements for graduate students are established by the Registrar and the Graduate School. You are considered a “full-time” graduate student if you are registered for 9–16 credits in a given academic term. You are considered a “part-time” graduate student if you have less than nine credits. If you are a degree-seeking student, you must be registered for a minimum of three graduate credits in any term you wish to be enrolled and access university resources, including the term of the final defense.

Students are responsible for staying current on course load requirements that may supersede the Graduate School requirements (i.e., international, financial aid, veteran's).

## 25. Continuous Graduate Enrollment

All graduate students enrolled in a degree program must register continuously for a minimum of 3 graduate credits each term (fall, winter, and spring terms) until all degree requirements are met, regardless of student's location. Students on approved leave are exempt from the continuous enrollment policy for the term(s) they are on leave.

Graduate students who use facilities or faculty/staff time during summer session are required to register for a minimum of 3 credits during the summer session. Students

defending in the summer term are required to register for a minimum of 3 graduate credits.

Students may appeal the provisions of the continuous graduate enrollment policy if extraordinary circumstances arise by submitting a detailed request in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School. Scheduling difficulties related to the preliminary oral exam or the final oral exam are not considered an extraordinary circumstance.

Graduate assistantship eligibility requires enrollment levels that supersede those contained in this continuous enrollment policy. Various agencies and offices maintain their own registration requirements that also may exceed those specified by this continuous enrollment policy (e.g., those of the Veterans Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service for international students, and those required for federal financial aid programs.) Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to register for the appropriate number of credits that may be required for funding eligibility and/or compliance as outlined by specific agency regulations under which they are governed.

**NOTE:** Students who are pursuing a certificate only are not subject to the continuous enrollment policy.

## 26. Leave of Absence

Leave of Absence status is available to eligible students who need to suspend their program of study for good cause. The time the student spends on approved leave will be included in any time limits prescribed by the university relevant to degree completion. Students on approved leave may not a) use any university facilities, b) make demands upon faculty time, c) receive a fellowship or financial aid, or d) take course work of any kind at Oregon State University. [Leave of Absence/Intent to Resume Graduate Study Forms](#) must be received by the Graduate School at least 15 working days prior to the first day of the term involved. Family Medical Leave (FML) may be granted at any point during a term. FML inquiries should be directed to [medical.leave@oregonstate.edu](mailto:medical.leave@oregonstate.edu). **NOTE:** Students who are pursuing a certificate only are not subject to the Leave of Absence Policy.

## 27. Unauthorized Break in Registration

Degree seeking graduate students who take an unauthorized break in registration relinquish graduate standing at the University.

To have graduate standing reinstated after an unauthorized break, students are required to reapply to their program (complete the online graduate admission application, pay the application fee, and may be required to register for three graduate credits for each term of unauthorized break in registration). It is advisable that students in this situation state that they are applying for readmission in the application packet. A reapplication does not ensure admittance to the program.

## 28. Grievance Procedures

All students desiring to appeal matters relating to their graduate degree should follow the Grievance Procedures for Graduate Students. These procedures are available at

<http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/progress/grievance-procedures>. Graduate assistants, whose terms and conditions of employment are prescribed by the [collective bargaining agreement](#) between OSU and the Coalition of Graduate Employees, American Federation of Teachers Local 6069, should also refer to that document and seek guidance from OSU's Office of Human Resources.

## 29. Grade Requirements and Program of Study

A grade-point average of 3.00 is required: 1) for all courses taken as a degree-seeking graduate student, and 2) for courses included in the graduate degree or graduate certificate program of study. Grades below C (2.00) cannot be used on a graduate program of study. A grade-point average of 3.00 is required before the final oral or written exam may be undertaken. Enforced graduate-level prerequisite courses must be completed with a minimum grade of C. Programs may have more stringent grade requirements than those prescribed by the Graduate School.

In the WRPM degree program, if a student earns more than any grade below “B” in any course included on the program of study, the student’s academic performance will be examined by the major professor and the WRPM curriculum committee to determine if the student may continue in the program or be dropped for academic deficiency. Two consecutive quarters of less than 3.0 GPA may result in immediate termination from the program, regardless of cumulative GPA.

A Master’s Program of Study – a list of proposed courses you will take – must be filed by all graduate students with the Graduate School. The MS Program must consist of a minimum of 50% graduate “stand-alone” courses (not 400/500 “slash courses”). The Program of Study form is available on the Graduate School website.

Program meetings and defenses may be held during any period when school is in session. This excludes the periods between regularly scheduled quarters and during official vacation periods. Students should be aware that most faculty are on nine-month appointments and may not be available during the three-month summer period.

It is the responsibility of each student to arrange the meeting and defense times and places, notify the Graduate School of scheduled defenses, and remind each committee member of the scheduled meeting or defense. At the time you schedule your thesis defense with the Graduate Schools, you should also apply for graduation if you have not already done so. Check the Graduate School web site for graduation deadlines.

Master’s degree students must file a study program with the Graduate School before the end of their second term in the program.

The program of study is worked out under the guidance of the student’s committee and is signed by members of the committee and the Director of the Water Resources program before filing with the Graduate School. Each candidate’s graduate program should include a substantial amount of work with at least four faculty members offering graduate instruction (e.g., teaching stand-alone courses).

Changes in the program may be made by submitting a new, revised Program of Study form to the Graduate School. If changes are needed, it is wise to wait and file one revised form – **but do so at least 15 weeks before the final examination for the degree** - so repeated filings are not necessary.

### 30. Transfer of Credits

Only graded, non-seminar graduate courses taken after the awarding of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution will be considered for transfer credit. Transfer course must carry a grade of 'B' or better. Courses required to fulfill a previous degree requirement will not be awarded transfer credit, except in cases of an established concurrent degree program. No transfer course may serve as a replacement for a core course. Transfer credit hours are limited to 15 quarter credit hours and subject to the approval of the student's committee and the Director of the Water Resources Graduate Program.

### 31. Incomplete Grades

An "I" (incomplete) grade is granted only at the discretion of the instructor. The incomplete that is filed by the instructor at the end of the term must include an alternate/default grade to which the incomplete grade defaults at the end of the specified time period. The time allocated to complete the required tasks for the course may be extended by petition to the University Academic Requirements Committee. You can obtain the form from the Registrar's Office. It is the student's responsibility to see that "I" grades are removed within the allotted time.

### 32. Student Conduct and Community Standards

Graduate students enrolled at Oregon State University are expected to conform to basic regulations and policies developed to govern the behavior of students as members of the university community. The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS) is the central coordinating office for student conduct-related matters at Oregon State University.

Choosing to join the Oregon State University community obligates each member to a code of responsible behavior which is outlined in the Student Conduct Code. The assumption upon which this Code is based is that all persons must treat one another with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive.

Violations of the regulations subject a student to appropriate disciplinary action.

### 33. Use of Human Subjects

Federal and university policies required that all research conducted by faculty, staff, and students using human subjects must be reviewed and approved by the institutional Review Board before initiating any portion of the project. In addition, the IRB now requires that all researchers using human subjects complete an on-line ethics course. Students should work with their major professors to submit their research project to the IRB for approval. See: <http://research.oregonstate.edu/irb> for information. The IRB office has drop in hours and will help with the process.

### 34. Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another. It includes:

- **CHEATING** — use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.
- **FABRICATION** — falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.
- **ASSISTING** — helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).
- **TAMPERING** — altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents
- **PLAGIARISM** — representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.



### 35. Office of Equal Opportunity and Access

The OSU Office of Equal Opportunity and Access defines sexual harassment as the following:

- Unwelcome\* sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:
- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education;
- Submission to or reject of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or education –related decisions affecting such an individual; or
- Such conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive that it has the effect, intended or unintended, of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance because it has created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment and would have such an effect on a reasonable person of that individual's status.

*\*Employee conduct directed towards a student – whether unwelcome or welcome – can constitute sexual harassment under OAR.*

There are two confidential resources to discuss reporting options: Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV) provides 24/7 confidential crisis response at 541-754-0110 or 800-927-0197, and OSU Sexual Assault Support Services is available weekdays at 541-737-7604.

### 36. Student Records

Both federal and state laws permit Oregon State University staff to release directory information (e.g. name, address, degree program, birth date) to the general public without your consent. You can prohibit the release of directory information to the public by signing the Confidentiality Restriction form available from the Registrar's Office. It will not prohibit the release of directory information to entities of Oregon State University that have a "need to know" to accomplish their required tasks. It further will not prohibit Oregon State University departments from including your name on mailing lists for distribution of materials that are essential to your enrollment at Oregon State University.

### 37. Application for degree and scheduling the final examination

Students intending to graduate must schedule their final examination, file an Application for Degree and pay a graduation fee before the deadline to do so. Deadline dates for filing vary from term to term; students should go the Graduate School website to determine deadlines.

Filing the application for the degree and scheduling the final examination will generate a final "TO DO" list from the Graduate School, which describes all program deficiencies.



Water Resources Graduate Program  
Oregon State University  
124 SW 26<sup>th</sup> Street | 116 Gilmore Hall  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

An early application allows the student ample time to correct any problems identified by the Graduate School. See the Graduate School website for details.



## Appendix A: Checklist for Water Resources Policy and Management Degree

To be signed by WRS representatives of student's committee and submitted with the student's program of study. Students must complete these to receive a WRS degree.

Student Name	MS
<b>Baccalaureate Requirements</b>	
Baccalaureate in natural resources, policy, management, or other baccalaureate degree	
<b>Program Requirements</b>	
<b>Water Resources Core Courses</b>	
WRX 507/607: Water Resources Seminar MS: 2 Credits total	
WRX 505 Water Resources Journal Club Journal club must be taken in the <b>same term</b> as one of the seminars	
WRP 524: Socio-technical Aspects of Water Resources	
<b>Required Graduate Policy/Mgmt Credits</b>	
Methods and Numerical Skills	
PPOL 524 Applied Research Methods or equivalent plus 6 credits	
Basic Water Science: 6 credits	
Policy and Management: 23 credits total, including:	
PPOL 512 Public Policy Theory (4)	
PPOL 511 Public Administration (4)	
WRP 510 (3-6) Internship; highly recommended for students without prior professional experience in management or policy	
<b>Thesis or Research</b>	
Thesis/Project Credits WRP 503	
MS Research Thesis (6 – 12)	
MS Project (3 – 6)	
<b>Total credits</b>	
MS: ≥45 credits	
Signed: Student	Date:
Signed: Major Advisor	Date:

## Appendix B: Curriculum for Water Resources Policy and Management

### **Core Courses - Required (9 credits)**

- WRP 524 Socio-technical Aspects of Water (3 cr.)
- WRS, WRP, or WRE 507 Water Resources Seminar (1 cr., take 2)
- WRS, WRP, or WRE 507 **and** 505 Seminar and Journal Club (1 + 1 cr.)

(Doctoral students must take a total of 3 seminars; one seminar must be taken concurrently with the journal club)

### **Methods and Numerical Skills (9 cr.)**

### **Basic Water Science (6 cr.)**

### **Policy and Management (21 cr.)**

- PS 571 Public Policy Theory (4) required
- PS 572 Public Administration (4) required
- 15 additional policy credits from electives.

A list of water-related courses that can be used to meet these course requirements can be found at:

<http://oregonstate.edu/gradwater/wrgp-courses>

## Appendix C: Comparison of Thesis and Project Options

	<b>Thesis</b>	<b>Project</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	Presents original research that contributes to the scholarly literature relevant to the practice of water resources policy and management.	Contributes to the practice of water resources policy and management via applied research and/or creative accomplishment.
<b>Format</b>	Formatted according to Graduate School requirements	Format is choice of student and advisor. A project may take many forms. All projects must be noteworthy for approach, content and accessibility to their target audience.
<b>Data Collection and Analysis</b>	Supervised research focused on original research, including literature review, data collection and analysis, and writing.	Uses methodology appropriate to the practice of WRPM. This can include scientific research methods, application of analytical tools such as GIS or remotes sensing to WRPM issue, literature review and/or the collection of material for extension and outreach materials. Can, but does not need to, involve primary data collection by the student.
<b>Committee</b>	Advisor, two additional committee members and graduate representative	Advisor and two additional committee members
<b>Standard expected</b>	Research must be publishable or have the potential to be published in a peer-reviewed journal.	The project report must communicate effectively findings, results and/or outreach materials to an audience of water resources practitioners. The project content must be well researched, relevant to its target audience, reliable and academically defensible. The examining committee must agree that with little modification the project report or project materials have the potential to be released to the public by a state agency, non-governmental organization, private consultancy, and/or university extension service.
<b>Length</b>	The length of thesis or research paper is not an indication of quality or difference between the two. Actual length will depend on the topic, methods and final product as agreed with the students committee. Both a thesis and project must be succinct as possible and each must be effectively communicated to its target audience.	
<b>Job qualification</b>	Job applicants often are asked to provide evidence of writing ability, and ability to work independently. Both the thesis and the project provide evidence of this ability.	

## Appendix D: Proposal Structure

Regardless of whether you do a thesis or project report, you must make a proposal to your major professor (and committee in the case of the thesis option) about what you plan to do. The proposal lays out the problem, tells the reader what is already known (and not known) about the problem, and describes in careful detail what you are going to do to answer the questions. While the content of the thesis proposal is a bit different from the project report, the design of the proposal is very similar.

### Thesis Proposal Structure

A thesis proposal can include a number of sections, described below. These are just examples. Of course, the content and subheads under each section will vary depending on the problem you are researching, your theoretical framework and the methodology you envision.

- I. Introduction.** This should consist of a brief summary of the problem you are proposing to investigate, what questions or hypotheses you intend to address, and how you envision doing it.
- II. Review of Literature.** Here you review relevant literature that will enable you to make a case for the significance of your research. This is an interdisciplinary field. It is likely you will review more than one area of literature. Following this review, you should summarize the rationale for your research questions or hypotheses drawn from all the areas of literature you have reviewed. Finally, you should clearly state your main research questions or hypotheses.
- III. Methodology.** Here you describe your plans for collecting data as specifically as you can. Of course, the considerations you discuss here will vary depending on the nature of your research, e.g., whether quantitative or qualitative. The following are considerations you may need to discuss in a quantitative thesis: unit of analysis; population; sampling procedures; research instruments (questionnaire, coding categories); and reliability and validity of the methodology you plan to use. Some discussion of the limitations of your chosen approaches may be appropriate.

It is often useful to have a conceptual model of anticipated results and how different results will help answer the proposed research question.

## Appendix E: Project Proposal Structure

The organization of a project proposal typically parallels that of a thesis proposal, including the following:

- I. Introduction.** A brief summary of what problem, topic(s) or issues you intend to address, and how you envision doing it.
- II. Background research.** Report any research that helps make a case for the significance of your project and provides the professional context for the paper. At least two types of background research are relevant here: research into the problem and appropriate methodologies to address the problem, and research to demonstrate the project's unique contribution to the practice of water resources policy and management.
- III. Methodology or Procedures.** Describe the procedural decisions and plans that will enable you to carry out the project. Obviously, different types of projects will require very different kinds of procedures. Creative projects will involve completely different types of procedures and methodologies, depending on the project.

It is often useful to have a conceptual model of anticipated results and how different results will help answer the proposed research question.

## Appendix F: Graduate School

What is the [Graduate School](#)?

- *The Graduate School at OSU assures quality and consistent interpretation of Graduate Council policies related to graduate education across all programs. The [OSU Catalog](#) is the official source for information regarding OSU graduate education policy and procedures. It is the student's responsibility to refer to the catalog for this information.*
- The Graduate School supports students throughout the academic [lifecycle](#), from admissions to degree completion.
- The Graduate Schools offers an array of [professional development opportunities](#) specific to the success of graduate students. Topics covered in these offerings include: research and ethics, teaching and facilitation, writing and communication, leadership and management, career skills, grad life and wellness. Please visit the Graduate School links to browse our student success offerings.

### Frequently Used Resources:

Graduate Program forms and all other necessary forms are available on the web at <http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/forms>

The OSU Graduate School Guide to Success, a step-by-step guide to getting through your graduate program can be found at <http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/graduate-student-success>

OSU Graduate diploma and commencement deadlines:  
<http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/progress/deadlines>

Information about graduate degrees can be found at <http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/>

The Graduate School is available to answer any questions on degree requirements. Call 541-737-4881, stop by the Graduate School on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Kerr Administration Building, or e-mail at [graduate.school@oregonstate.edu](mailto:graduate.school@oregonstate.edu)

The OSU Center for Writing and Learning: writing assistants are available to help with brainstorming, organization, grammar and usage, and all aspects of writing. There is also an online writing lab for assessment of writing problems (24-48 hour turnaround.) You can call 541-737-5640, visit at Waldo 123, or check the website at <http://cwl.oregonstate.edu>.

The OSU Academic Success Center: provides assistance with goal setting, study skills, listening habits, time management, and wellness. You can visit MU 203 or on the web go to: <http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/graduate-student-success/grad-student-success-center>

## Appendix G. Academic and Support Resources

OSU offers a wide array of academic and support resources designed to meet graduate student needs. Some of the more commonly used resources are included below. For a more complete list, please visit the Graduate School's [Student Resources web page](#). Note that some services are campus-specific. See also [OSU Cascades Campus Life](#) and [Ecampus Student Services](#) for services specifically provided to graduate students pursuing degrees or certificates via those specific venues.

- [Campus Safety](#) – Emergency phone numbers, university alerts
- [Career Development Center](#) – Resume/CV, networking, job search strategies
- [Childcare and Family Resources](#) – University child care centers, child care assistance
- [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) – Individual and group counseling
- [Cultural Resource Centers](#) – Cultural based community centers, social support
- [Disability Access Services \(DAS\)](#) – Academic accommodations
- [Equal Opportunity and Access \(EOA\)](#) – Employment accommodations, discrimination or bias response
- [Financing your education](#) – Funding options and information, graduate awards
- [Graduate Student Commons \(GSC\)](#) – Lounge, study space, printing, reservable meeting rooms
- [Graduate Writing Center](#) – Writing workshops, groups, and 1:1 writing coaching
- [Health Insurance](#) – Plans for graduate students and graduate employees
- [Human Services Resource Center \(HSRC\)](#) – Food pantry, housing and food stamp assistance
- [Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#) – Review for human subjects research
- [Office of International Services \(OIS\)](#) – Visa and immigration advising
- [Ombudsman Conflict Management Services](#) – Informal, impartial conflict resolution advising
- [Recreational Sports](#) – Dixon Recreation Center, intramural sports
- [Statistics Consulting Service](#) – Graduate student research statistical advising
- [Student Health Services \(SHS\)](#) – Clinic and pharmacy
- [Student Multimedia Services \(SMS\)](#) – Poster printing, equipment and laptop loans
- [Beaver Bus](#)
- [Biking](#)
- [Transportation and Parking Services \(TAPS\)](#) – Parking permits, maps
- [Valley Library](#) – Reference and research assistance, study spaces, research tools

## Appendix H. Graduate Learning Outcomes and Their Assessment

The Water Resources Policy and Management Program Assessment Plan describes the following learning outcomes for students in the WRPM program:

“Through participation in and successful completion of the Master of Science in the Water Resources Policy and Management (WRPM) degree program, students will gain an advanced understanding of water resources policy, methods, and sustainable management of water resources. Students will be sufficiently trained through disciplinary coursework and research experience to bring policy expertise to a water resources issue, and will have sufficient breadth of knowledge in water resources science and environmental issues to communicate with professionals from a broad range of specialties involved in water resources management and research and the public interested in water resources policy and management.”

### **Scholarship**

Program graduates demonstrated mastery and application of critical thinking that extends knowledge in water resources policy and management by designing and conducting their thesis or project research and presenting results of this research at their final examination.

### **Knowledge**

By successfully completing the coursework required for the degree program, designing, conducting and presenting the results of a research project, and completing their thesis or project paper, program graduates demonstrated in-depth disciplinary knowledge and the capacity to apply that knowledge to a water resource issue. Coursework required for the WRPM degree program trains students in theory and methods, and how to integrate water resources concepts across multiple disciplines at multiple scales.

### **Communication & Service**

Program graduates demonstrate the ability to present the results of their research by completion of assignments in the core course WRP 524, at the Pacific Northwest Water Resources Research Symposium held at OSU in Spring term, and at professional meetings.

### **Ethics and Diversity**

Graduates of the WRPM degree program receive training in ethics through research methods courses, the core course WRP 524, and online training in ethics through OSU Office of Research Integrity. Students are encouraged to participate in activities honoring diversity and multiculturalism such as the annual MLK Birthday Celebration.

Achievement of these learning outcomes is assessed at the final defense by the committee, using the form on the following page (Attachment 1).



## Appendix I: Scoring Guide (Rubric) for Graduate Learning Outcome Assessment MS DEFENSE EXAM\*

### Water Resources Policy and Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Thesis / Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluation/Guidance	Does not meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
1. <b>Problem Definition:</b> Has stated the research/project problem clearly, providing motivation for undertaking the research			
2. <b>Literature and Previous Work:</b> Demonstrated sound knowledge of literature in the area, and of prior work on the specific research/project problem			
3. <b>Impact of Research/Project:</b> Demonstrated the potential value of solution to the research/project problem in advancing knowledge within the area of study			
4. <b>Solution Approach:</b> Has applied sound state-of-the-art research/project methods/tools to solve the defined problem and has described the methods/tools effectively			
5. <b>Results:</b> Analyzed and interpreted research/project results/data effectively			
6. <b>Quality of Written Communication:</b> Communicates research/project results clearly and professionally in <b>written</b> form			
7. <b>Quality of Oral Communication:</b> Communicates research/project results clearly and professionally in <b>oral</b> form			
8. <b>Critical Thinking:</b> Has demonstrated capability for independent research/project in the area of study and expertise in the area			
9. <b>Broader Impact:</b> Demonstrated awareness of broader implications of the concluded research/project. Broader implications may include social, economic, technical, ethical, business, etc. aspects.			
10. <b>Publications:</b> Journal, conference, or some other scholarly publications have resulted (or are anticipated) from this research/project			

**Overall Assessment:** The assessment of the overall performance of the candidate based on

the evidence provided in items 1 – 10 above.

CRITERIA	PERFORMANCE RATINGS for THESIS EXAM	
	<i>Does NOT PASS Exam</i>	<i>PASSES Exam</i>
OVERALL, My rating of the Thesis / Project Paper indicates that it:	Does not meet expectations	Meets expectations

**Examining Committee Members:**

--	--	--

Printed Name

Signature

Date

--	--	--

Printed Name

Signature

Date

--	--	--

Printed Name

Signature

Date

--	--	--

Printed Name

Signature

Date

--	--	--

Printed Name

Signature

Date

***Examiner: Please use the remainder and/or reverse side of this form for written commentary as needed.***

## Appendix J. Plan for Assessment of Student Progress

This document has been prepared to provide students and faculty in the Water Resources Graduate Program (WRGP) with guidelines for assessing whether students are making satisfactory progress towards the degree and to enhance communication that will foster such timely progress<sup>4, 5</sup>.

**Definition of satisfactory progress:** Satisfactory progress toward completing a graduate degree in the WRGP requires:

1. Participating in an annual assessment survey showing adequate progress in coursework, and timely compliance with all development of thesis or writing project as evaluated by major professor and the rest of the student's graduate committee, Graduate School and degree program requirements\*\* for committee formation, committee meetings, project proposal, submission of forms and information, participation in seminars and other activities expected of a student, scholar and member of the WRGP.
2. Maintaining a GPA of 3.00 or better for all courses taken as a graduate student,
3. Successfully passing relevant exams (as outlined by the Graduate School),
4. Maintaining communication with the advisor and committee on the progress of the student's thesis or dissertation research.

\*Students who are restricted from full course loads may negotiate a longer time frame in consultation with the program director and their major professor.

### Section 1. What informs satisfactory progress?

See Graduate Handbook for description of the schedule of progress for students in each degree program for the schedule of academic progress. In addition, the Graduate School website (see footnote) describes minimum academic progress expected for all graduate students.

### Section 2. What are the accountability mechanisms?

Mechanisms of accountability begin with the annual progress assessment survey and completion and submission of annual progress form. Students are accountable for completing the annual assessment of progress survey and a self-assessment narrative. The advisor is responsible for meeting with the student to go over the survey and narrative, and for completion of the form submitted to the WRGP office. The Program Director is responsible for reading through the surveys, noting where there is concern that the student is not making satisfactory progress, and arranging to meet with those students.

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<sup>4</sup> We wish to express our thanks to the OSU College of Forestry, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society whose progress assessment documents informed our plan, and from which we liberally borrowed text.

<sup>5</sup> The *minimum criteria* for satisfactory progress as codified by Graduate Council is: Advanced-degree students (regularly, conditionally, and provisionally admitted) are expected to make satisfactory progress toward a specific academic degree. This includes maintaining a GPA of 3.00 or better for all courses taken as a graduate student and for courses included in the graduate program, meeting departmental or program requirements, and participating in a creative activity such as a thesis.  
(<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=38#Section1815>)

### **Section 3. What are the ramifications for not making satisfactory progress?**

Students who are not making academic progress and their advisors, will be required to meet with the Program Director and/or Associate Director to discuss reasons for lack of progress and to make a plan for achieving adequate progress going forward. Students who are not making adequate progress and have been informed that they are not making adequate progress will have a specified time frame established at their meeting with the Director and benchmarks that must be met in order to be retained in the program. Students who continue to fail in making adequate progress, and do not meet these benchmarks can lose their eligibility for continued financial support, scholarships or assistantships.

### **Section 4. How is the information communicated to students?**

The Plan for Assessment of Academic Progress will be provided in the Handbook for all students. Following the review of academic progress, those students who are not meeting expectations for academic progress will be notified via email and requested to schedule a meeting with the Director and Associate Director of the relevant degree program.

### **Section 5. Description of the Assessment process (also in Graduate Handbooks)**

a. Each spring term, every graduate student in the Water Resources Graduate Program will fill out the survey of student progress, noting achievement of specific benchmarks, and attach a written self- assessment narrative, described below.

Self-Assessment Narrative: The written self-assessment should summarize activities undertaken by the student since the last review and should address: (1) Coursework taken and grades received, (2) Field work, data collection/analysis, (3) Progress on writing thesis, (4) Participation in Hydrophiles organization and/ or professional development opportunities, (5) Service to the Department and the University, (6) the students communication methods and schedule with adviser, and (7) Any other relevant information, including any impediments to progress.

b. The student will then meet with the major professor to review the student's self-assessment narrative, progress, and accomplishments over the past year. Participation from other graduate committee members may be requested by the student or the major professor but is not required.

c. The major professor reviews the student's materials and then fills out and signs the Assessment of Graduate Student Academic Progress form. The major professor (or any committee member) will include specific written comments – they may choose to write their own narrative to document their assessment of the student's progress in writing for inclusion in the assessment, but this is optional. Written comments should document expectations for the coming year. The student will then sign the form and is responsible for submitting the narrative and the signed and completed Assessment of Graduate Student Academic Progress form to the WRGP office for inclusion in the student's permanent record by June 30th each year.

d. If the student's progress is unsatisfactory, the student will work with the major professor to develop a Graduate Education Performance Plan that contains measurable milestones for assessing student academic progress over the course of the year. The plan will also be reviewed and signed by the graduate program director and filed in the student's permanent record.

## Appendix K: OSU Water Resources Graduate Program Instrument for Assessment of Master's Student Academic Progress

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Assessment:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please carefully review the WRGP Plan for Assessment of Satisfactory Academic Progress (Pages 1 & 2 of this document) and complete in accordance with the WRGP Plan. **This completed form must be attached to the self-assessment narrative and submitted to the WRGP Department Office before June 30th each year.**

### 1. Completion of Milestones (Students- please complete this section):

Enter term of completion (e.g. 'Fall '18') next to milestones achieved for your current degree.

a. Committee formed (Enter names below, beginning with your advisor or major professor):

Major Professor \_\_\_\_\_

Committee member \_\_\_\_\_

Committee member \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Committee Rep. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Conducted program of study meeting on (date): \_\_\_\_\_

c. Submitted program of study to the Graduate School (date) \_\_\_\_\_

d. Submitted research proposal to WRGP Director and Associate Director (date):

e. Final exam scheduled for: \_\_\_\_\_

### Signatures of major professor (s) and student:

*I have reviewed my student's milestones (above) and self-assessment narrative, have completed the 'Major Professor Assessment of Progress' (page 2 of this document), and confirmed my student understands my responses.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Major Professor(s) Signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*I have reviewed the above milestones with my advisor and understand my advisor's responses and expectations*

Student Signature

Date

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**2. Major Professor Assessment of Progress:**

Yes ( Y )	No ( N )	Major professor(s): Please discuss your responses with your student.
		Student is making satisfactory progress in completing his or her coursework
		Student is making satisfactory progress in research, including planning and conducting data collection and analysis
		Student is making satisfactory progress in completing the thesis or research project paper
		Student has participated in professional development opportunities, presenting research at professional meetings, participating in Hydrophiles student club and/ or other service activities
		Student is communicating effectively and courteously with advisor, committee members, and other faculty members.
		Overall, student is on track to graduate and is building a strong scholarly resume

Comments:

## Appendix L: Water Resources Graduate Program Graduate Education Performance Plan

This form is intended to monitor a student's performance towards degree completion **resulting from an unsatisfactory review** at an annual assessment. This form should outline mutually agreed-upon (between student and major professor) benchmarks of performance.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Major Professor \_\_\_\_\_

**Plan** (Identify deficiencies and outline plan to remedy them):

**Benchmarks** (Criteria used to evaluate progress):

### Signatures

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_