

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ARIZONA**  
TUCSON ARIZONA

Dr. Jacqueline Sharkey  
School of Journalism  
Louise Foucar Marshall Bldg  
Room 334

Dr. Mark Brusseau  
Soil, Water, and Environmental Science Dept.  
Shantz Bldg  
Room 429

**DUAL MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN  
SOIL, WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
AND JOURNALISM**

This is a program jointly administered by the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science (SWES) and the School of Journalism.

**Rationale**

At a time when science is having such a profound impact on political, economic, and social institutions and values, journalists who understand the factors that shape the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of information about science and its offspring, technology, are of crucial importance. There is a significant demand in the news media and other information industries for graduate students who have an educational background in both science and journalism. News reports about issues such as climate change and evolution illustrate clearly how providing journalists with a cross-disciplinary education in science can affect decisions about how information about scientific topics is selected and utilized in news reports that become part of the global information environment. This coverage, in turn, has a major impact on discourse about science and science policy in this country and others.

Students who would acquire the research background, professional training, and knowledge of science and journalism that would be provided by this dual-degree program would be able to make important contributions not only to discussions within news organizations about the ways in which information about science should be gathered and evaluated, but also discussions in the fields of science and journalism about the ways in which this information influences public perceptions and public policy, and therefore the effects of science on society.

**Scope of the Program**

The minimum number of units required to earn dual master's degrees in Soil, Water and Environmental Science and in Journalism is 51 (18 from SWES, 18 from Journalism, and 15 units that are shared between the two disciplines, including the master's thesis or project). Students will have the option of pursuing an M.S. in Soil, Water and Environmental Science and an M.A. in Journalism with either the Professional Journalism option or the International Journalism Studies option. The tables on the next two pages show the required courses for each option.

## **Admission to the Dual Degree Program**

Students must apply to and be accepted by both the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science and the School of Journalism to qualify for the dual degree program. A committee comprising faculty members from the two units will review and make a recommendation about any student who has been accepted by both units and has indicated that he or she wishes to earn dual degrees.

## **Transfer Credit**

A request to transfer must be submitted to the Graduate College, in consultation with the Directors of Graduate Studies of both units, by the end of the first year. Many of these transfer units may be applicable to requirements in either degree program, or may count toward the additional units required of the student.

## **Thesis or Project**

By the end of the second semester of enrollment, students must form a master's thesis or master's project committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom serves as the thesis or project advisor.

The advisor must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member in SWES or Journalism. The committee must have at least one member from each unit. If two of the committee members are tenured or tenure-eligible, then the third committee member may be a continuing or non-tenure-eligible faculty member whose participation on the committee has been approved by the Graduate College. The committee membership must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in each unit.

## Curriculum for Dual Master's Degrees in SWES and Journalism

### PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM OPTION

#### Journalism Course Requirements (18 units)

JOUR 506 Introductory and Advanced Reporting (3 units)

JOUR 507 Reporting with Multimedia (3 units)

JOUR 508 Journalism Theory and Practice (3 units)

JOUR 509 International and U.S. Media Law (3 units)

JOUR 513 Reporting Public Affairs (3 units) or JOUR 411 Feature Writing (3 units)

JOUR 590A-D or 597D School Media (3 units)

(Select one: Arizona Cat's Eye, Arizona-Sonora News Service, Border Beat, Cat Scan, *El Independiente*, *Tombstone Epitaph*)

#### Shared JOUR/SWES Course Requirements (15 units)

JOUR 596d Issues in Covering the Environment (3 units)

JOUR 5xx Science Journalism (3 units – to be submitted for course approval Spring 2011)

SWES 515 Translating Environmental Science (3 units)

JOUR 909 or 910 Thesis or Project (3 units)            One thesis or project for a total

SWES 909 or 910 Thesis or Project (3 units)            of 6 units of credit

#### SWES Course Requirements (18 units)

Select One: SWES 520 Environmental Physics (3 units)  
SWES 570 Soil Physics (3 units)

Select One: SWES 525 Environmental Microbiology (3 units)  
SWES 574 Aquatic Plants & the Environment (3 units)  
WSM 552 Dryland Ecohydrology (3 units)

Select One: SWES 562 Environmental Soil and Water Chemistry (3 units)  
SWES 564 Environmental Chemistry (3 units)

SWES 518 Introduction to Human Health Risk Assessment (3 units)

SWES 544 Applied Environmental Law (3 units)

Elective: Select one from the following (3 units):

SWES 508 Scientific Writing for Environmental, Agricultural and Life Sciences

SWES 561 Soil and Water Conservation (summer)

SWES 595F Conservation Biology: Field Studies in Developing Countries (summer)

SWES 596B Arizona Water Policy (consent of instructor required)

SWES 603K Engaging the Public in Environmental Decision-Making

SWES 603M Global Climate Change and the Law

TTE 530 Environmental Learning (Education)

**Total 51 units**

