

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C**

Fields marked with * are required

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Date:* 01-10-08

Initiator's Rank / Title* ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: School of Architecture Planning

Faculty Contact* William Fleming

Administrative Contact* William Fleming

Department* CRP

Division

Branch

Program

Proposed effective term:

Semester

Fall ▼

Year

2008 ▼

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program

Graduate Degree Program

CIP Code

Name of New or Existing Program

* Dual Degree MCRP/MWR

Catalog Page Number

Select Category

Degree ▼

Degree Type

masters

Select Action

New ▼

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog.
See current catalog for format within the respective college (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

[catalogue.doc](#)

☐ **This Change affects other departmental program/branch campuses**

Reason(s) for Request * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

[rationale.doc](#)

Statements to address budgetary and Faculty Load Implications and Long-range planning * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

No budgetary or faculty load implications because all courses already exist and both degrees are already in place.

A dual degree between the MWR and MCRP will prepare students to make important contributions in both water resources and planning through a familiarity with the scientific discourse of water resources and the language and methodologies from community-based planning. Diverse groups are brought together to collaborate in the mediation of water disputes, especially in the Southwest where demands on limited water resources are increasing exponentially. Students will be exposed to the pedagogy of instructors in diverse fields of expertise, such as resource planning and management, dispute resolution and negotiation, hydrology, economic development, and collaborative planning.

Dual Degree Community and Regional Planning/Water Resources Program (M.C.R.P./M.W.R.)

Course requirements (59 hours)

CRP 500 Planning Theory and Process	(4)
CRP 510 Planning Communications Workshop	(2)
WR 573 Field Studio	(4)
CRP 521 Advanced Planning Studio	(5)
CRP 580 Community Growth and Land Use Planning	(3)
CRP 511 Analytical Methods for Planning	(4)
CRP 532 Foundations of Natural Resources Planning	(3)
CRP 527 Watershed Management	(3)
CRP 588 Professional Project and Thesis Preparation	(2)
WR 571 Contemporary Issues in Water Resources	(4)
WR 572 Water Resources Models	(4)
CRP 589 Professional Project or Thesis	(6)
electives from MWR groups 1, 2 and 3	(15)

(3 hrs from Policy Management Concentration, 6 hrs from Hydrosience, 3 hrs from Water Resources Utilites, and 3 hrs from electives approved by advisor)

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The rationale for a dual degree program leading to a Master of Water Resources (MWR)/Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) is three-fold: 1) the degrees are complementary in discipline and scope; 2) there is significant overlap between the degrees; and 3) a dual degree results in enhanced employment opportunities for graduates.

The MWR degree is an interdisciplinary professional degree designed to prepare students for careers in water resources. While all students take a core curriculum that includes a mix of technical and social sciences classes, they ultimately must select a hydroscience concentration or a policy and management concentration. Most students in the policy and management concentration take MCRP courses, and in fact many have completed dual degrees by satisfying the curricula requirements for both the MWR and MCRP. The interdisciplinary nature of the MWR program reflects the growing complexity of water and environmental issues that almost always require knowledge of technical issues as well as an understanding of societal impacts and public processes for addressing them. Effective water resource professionals need the many competencies provided by the MWR program.

The MCRP program prepares future planners with the knowledge and skills to plan for sustainable communities and ecosystems within the Southwest regional context through education, service, and research. Students learn to assist communities to create plans and programs that sustain and enhance their culture, resource base, built environment and economic vitality. The program promotes participatory processes and responds to community identities and development needs. In addition to its regular degree, the MCRP program offers dual degrees in Latin American Studies and Public Administration that allow students to expand their education in interdisciplinary ways. A student wishing to pursue a dual degree applies for admission to each program.

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There is a demand for expertise with elements from both programs. Five students have either completed or are in the final stages of individually-developed dual degrees. Four other students are preparing to apply and have expressed interest in a dual degree program. Graduates report that they are more competitive when they apply for employment opportunities in water resources with expertise that has trained them in science, policy and planning disciplines. Graduates are able to work with scientists and engineers in technical fields, and planners dealing with policy issues. Students working as professional staff and interns with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission find skills from both programs to be invaluable in the office that develops water management plans for the state's water management districts.

The dual degree program will require students to complete two-thirds of the course requirements from the individual programs. Currently, the MCRP requires 50 hours and the MWR 39 hours of academic work. The dual degree program will have 60 hours of required coursework. The following program meets these requirements, with several "bridge" courses between the two disciplines. The two studio courses, watershed management, foundations of natural resources, natural resources field methods and

contemporary issues in water resources all involve substantial elements of water resources and community-based planning.

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