

Projects That Build a Pipeline to Jobs Through Internships

One of the primary goals of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin is to create a pipeline to jobs in the water workforce. This entails supporting meaningful internship experiences for students and potential employers. If you would like to participate in a Career Pathways working group, please email us at freshwater-collab@uwm.edu.

Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin Statewide Internship Program

Institutions: UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee

Principal Investigators: James P. Hurley, Rebecca Klaper, Sandra McLellan

Internships provide essential on-the-job training for students; however, there is currently no undergraduate internship program focused on career opportunities in water. UW-Milwaukee and UW-Madison are creating a statewide program by expanding their relationships with current industry partners (DNR, USGS, SEWRPC) and engaging new ones through their connections with The Water Council. They will also establish an undergraduate-focused Industry and Agency Advisory Committee to strengthen and promote connections, to learn about undergraduate opportunities, and identify skills needed for internships and job placement. The goal is to develop a streamlined process for matching qualified UW students with water-related opportunities.

Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin-Green Bay Student Internships Through Collaborative Partnerships

Institution: UW-Green Bay

Principal Investigator: John Arendt

This project focuses on career development around water-centric internships in collaboration with community partners. This project will build linkages among Freshwater Collaborative programming and businesses, industries and agencies across a 16-county footprint focused on water-driven economies stretching from the UW-Green Bay campus in Sheboygan to the shipyards near the UW-Green Bay, Marinette Campus. Internships will prepare students to help partners solve water challenges. Initially focused on collaboration across the Green Bay campus communities, the program could become part of the statewide Freshwater Collaborative network, linking students to professional opportunities more widely.

UW Oshkosh Comprehensive Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin Training, Community Engagement, Business Enterprise, Research, and Recruitment Program

Institutions: UW Oshkosh, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout

Principal Investigator: Greg Kleinheinz, UW Oshkosh

UW Oshkosh is offering student training opportunities at the Environmental Research and Innovation Center (ERIC), a state-certified laboratory for many water testing parameters as well as a contract R&D laboratory for various community and industry projects. The partnership with the Freshwater Collaborative allows students from any UW campus opportunities to work at ERIC field research sites each summer, which embeds students in communities to study surface, well and groundwater.



UWRF Ecological Restoration Institute

Institution: UW-River Falls

Principal Investigator: Holly Dolliver

The Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI) at UW-River Falls provides student trainings/certifications, internships and career development opportunities. The ERI is engaged in a variety of restoration projects that serve as a living laboratory for demonstrating watershed and land management best practices. Trainings and internship experiences ensure graduates are highly skilled and can have an immediate impact in their careers. This project will expand programming to students across the UW System and diversify the ERI's projects and activities to become a leader in supporting next-generation agricultural water management practices.