Participants

Faculty from these UF Colleges participate in the Water Institute:

- College of Agricultural & Life Sciences
- Warrington College of Business Administration
- College of Design, Construction & Planning
- College of Engineering
- Levin College of Law
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- College of Medicine
- School of Natural Resources & Environment
- College of Veterinary Medicine

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"Nothing is more fundamental to life than water. Not only is water a basic need, but adequate safe water underpins the nation's health, economy, security, and ecology. The strategic challenge for the future is to ensure adequate quantity and quality of water to meet human and ecological needs in the face of growing competition among domestic, industrial-commercial, agricultural, and environmental uses."


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An interdisciplinary approach to research and education in water-related studies
The University of Florida has a distinguished history of state, national and international research on water-related issues. Currently more than 150 UF faculty members conduct water-related studies in more than 50 Departments and Centers. The Water Institute creates and maintains the cross-campus and external linkages required to deliver valued outcomes to water-related problems. This is accomplished by:

- Networking with external stakeholders to identify critical water issues requiring interdisciplinary collaboration of UF Water Institute Faculty
- Providing one-stop shopping for UF water expertise
- Hosting working groups of industry, government, and academic personnel to produce white papers, research papers, and proposals to solve water issues
- Developing and delivering interdisciplinary solutions to stakeholders' water issues
- Increasing the pool of well-trained water-related scientists, engineers, planners, and policy-makers in the state of Florida
- Hosting state and national symposia to highlight recent advances in water-related science, policy, and law

The mission of the University of Florida Water Institute is to meet this need by fostering interdisciplinary research, education, and public outreach programs designed to:

- Improve knowledge of the physical, chemical, and biological processes in aquatic systems (rivers, lakes, oceans, estuaries, wetlands, and groundwaters).
- Enhance understanding of how human activities and attitudes affect aquatic systems.
- Develop and promote the adoption of improved methodologies for water management and policy development based on a strong background in water-related sciences, engineering, management and law.

Ensuring adequate water of sufficient quality is a pressing need for society as development pressures stress existing supplies. Competing demands for water require non-traditional solutions that must balance economic, environmental, and social factors.

The Water Institute addresses some of the central questions facing water resource managers, for example:

- Can we effectively manage our water resources with our current level of knowledge? If not, what information do we need?
- Is there sufficient water to protect environmental and ecological values and support future economic growth? If not, what should be done? What are the costs?
- Will BMP, TMDL and MFL programs successfully protect the quality and ecological integrity of our nation's waters?
- How should our water management strategies adapt to climate variability and climate change?

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