Aquatics
Undergraduate Major
College of Health · School of Kinesiology

Points of Distinction

- The only comprehensive bachelor’s degree in aquatics in the United States (since 2002).
- Students in the aquatics program have the opportunity to earn at least 9 industry-specific external agency certifications or licenses.
- The student’s capstone experience during the 12-credit hour internship provides “real world” hands-on opportunities in national and global locations.
- Our students have the opportunity to take part in stroke evaluations using the departmental flume (swim-in-place unit). This unique opportunity allows students to receive immediate feedback and rapidly apply knowledge representative to the profession.

Career Opportunities

Organizations needing professional aquatic managers range from educational institutions and health & fitness facilities to recreation natatoriums and waterparks. The demand for aquatic professionals is present in private clubs and fitness centers as well as local, state, and federal government departments including: parks and recreation, community services, and leisure services. An Aquatic Director typically earns between $35,000 and $140,000 annually. According to careerbuilder.com the national average wage for Aquatic Director’s is $65,000 per year.

Facilities

Our courses utilize multiple facilities due to the variety of curriculum. Assets include a 25-yard X 40-foot competition/recreation pool, a 25-yard, 6-lane competition pool, and 3-meter and 1-meter spring boards over a diving well with underwater observatory. One of our facilities has a flume to evaluate stroke technique. Courses are delivered in electronic classrooms, labs, and pool areas on campus. Certain courses include off-campus trips to complete coursework.

Aquatics School

The annual Aquatic School is a very popular event that takes place in early May. The Aquatic School provides an intensive week of aquatic instruction. This program is designed to build camaraderie and obtain several aquatic certifications prior to the summer season. The program is available for credit and helps students complete their degrees sooner.
Curriculum Requirements

CORE COURSES: 15 HOURS
AQUA 190 Introduction to Aquatics (3)
AQUA 479 Aquatic Professional Internship (12)

REQUIRED COURSES: 34 HOURS
AQUA 216 Lifeguard Training (3)
AQUA 260 Emergency Medical Responder (3)
AQUA 313 Biomechanics of Aquatics (2)
AQUA 315 Water Safety Instructor (3)
AQUA 316 Aquatic Fitness Instructor (3)
AQUA 404 Lifeguard Instructor (3)
AQUA 454 Pool Operations & Maintenance (3)
AQUA 455 Aquatic Facilities Management (3)
AQUA 457 Aquatic Facility Design (2)
AQUA 458 Aquatic Leadership Development (3)
EXSC 292 Anatomy (3)
EXSC 294 Anatomical Kinesiology (3)

DIRECTED ELECTIVES: 10 HOURS
AQUA 120 Aquatics Special Topics (1-3)
AQUA 212 Aquatic Recreation Activities (3)
AQUA 219 Aquatic Sports Officiating (1)
AQUA 220 Open Water SCUBA (2)
AQUA 221 Advanced SCUBA Diver (2)
AQUA 224 Divemaster (2)
AQUA 225 Assistant SCUBA Instructor (2)
AQUA 301 Instructor of CPR & First Aid (2)
AQUA 314 Teach/Coach Swimming & Diving (3)
AQUA 456 Camp Waterfront Administration (2)

AQUATICS PROGRAM TOTAL HOURS: 59

*Aquatic Major students may not earn Aquatic Minors.

Other Aquatic Opportunities
MINOR IN AQUATICS: 18 HOURS
Our effort is to develop and produce quality graduates who have the appropriate skills and certifications to obtain employment in an aquatic profession.

DIRECTED ELECTIVES: 10 HOURS
AQUA 120 Aquatics Special Topics (1-3)
AQUA 212 Aquatic Recreation Activities (3)
AQUA 219 Aquatic Sports Officiating (1)
AQUA 220 Open Water SCUBA (2)
AQUA 221 Advanced SCUBA Diver (2)
AQUA 224 Divemaster (2)
AQUA 225 Assistant SCUBA Instructor (2)
AQUA 301 Instructor of CPR & First Aid (2)
AQUA 314 Teach/Coach Swimming & Diving (3)
AQUA 456 Camp Waterfront Administration (2)

AQUATICS PROGRAM TOTAL HOURS: 59

*Aquatic Major students may not earn Aquatic Minors.

Connect With Us
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