The Advanced Water Systems Operation and Management program will prepare graduates to work in water treatment, water distribution, and wastewater treatment, related work in industry, as well as inspection or enforcement.

Program Highlights
The operation and management of water and wastewater treatment systems to safeguard against water-borne diseases, and ensure a healthy environment in an efficient and sustainable manner are paramount in both public and private sector industries. The provision of potable water and the effective treatment of the municipal and industrial wastewater streams are growing fields in the environmental sector. The Ontario government has passed into law rigorous training requirements for water and wastewater treatment operators, in response to recommendations made in the Walkerton Commission of Inquiry reports. Under the Safe Water Drinking Act, operators require training and certification to run these systems safely. This one-year Graduate Certificate program in Advanced Water Systems Operations and Management will provide you with:
» The opportunity to do real, hands-on manipulation of equipment and data collection, learning about water systems operation in our labs and wet-work facilities.
» Faculty expertise to guide you in understanding government regulations on the treatment of water and wastewater in this highly regulated and changing industry.
» The knowledge needed to pass the Ministry of Environment Licensing and Certification exams for Water and Wastewater Operators.
» Project management skills, essential to your success in this field.
» Critical thinking and troubleshooting skills required to respond to emergency or non-routine situations as an operator or supervisor in this challenging field.
» Health and Safety knowledge and awareness training to assist graduates in a safe working career and progression into management roles.
» The knowledge and practical expertise to assist and lead organizations and government agencies in the provision of drinking water and the treatment of wastewater.

Co-op Experience
You will work for up to 16 weeks in a facility or industrial setting, applying your learning under the guidance of a mentor, during this paid, co-op experience.

Please note: students pay tuition and fees for two semesters of study, plus a co-op fee of approximately $558.00 (to cover administrative fees related to the co-op).

Students who start the program in September participate in their co-op from the first Monday in May until the last Friday in August. Students who begin the program in January participate in their co-op from the first Monday in September until the last Friday before Christmas in December.

Career Opportunities
This program has been designed to be forward-thinking, incorporating industry trends, job requirements and legislation requirements, to prepare graduates for this work. Employment opportunities include work in municipalities with water and wastewater treatment systems, in water-use industries, in inspection or environmental monitoring agencies. Employment in this sector is expected to increase due to upcoming retirements, environmental factors and changes in legislation.

As a graduate, you will be considered an Operator in Training and can use this program as a pathway to the Level 1 Operator. The 16-week co-op may count towards the 12 months of experience required for a Level 1 licence. With successive experience, you can progress into higher classifications of licences and subsequently into municipal management or government inspection roles. Employment opportunities are also available in industrial sectors such as mining and minerals processing, iron and steel, petroleum, power generation, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture.

Northern Ontario offers growing employment opportunities, particularly for those with experience in wastewater treatment in cold climates. International work in wastewater and water treatment, particularly in countries where water and wastewater infrastructure are being developed, are other potential career options.

Trends to Note
The management of urban infrastructure in Ontario will face challenges as a result of urban population increases,
water quality and quantity, changes in energy supply and climate changes that may lead to extreme weather events. Aging, deteriorating infrastructure, new technologies and new infrastructure design are other factors that water/wastewater facility managers and operators need to be able to anticipate and respond to appropriately.

Centre For Advancement Of Water And Wastewater Technologies
The Centre for Advancement of Water and Wastewater Technologies (CAWT), located on-campus, is recognized internationally for its applied research specializing in innovative and emerging water and wastewater treatment using low cost, high efficiency, environmentally-sound technologies. The CAWT has received over $15 million in funding for applied research as of 2017. This program works with the CAWT to inform students of the innovative water and wastewater projects undertaken by the CAWT.

Program Format
There are two, 13-week semesters, followed by the 16-week co-operative education placement. The program concludes with a series of presentations and co-op evaluations at the Graduate Field Summit.

Laboratory and field work are incorporated throughout the program as are field trips to a variety of water treatment and wastewater treatment operations. Normally, course and lab work take place on-site for four days per week while one day per week is devoted to field work, site visits, and applied project work in teams.

To be responsive to industry and technological change, the program is designed in a series of 10 courses (modules). This modular format provides opportunities for those employed in the field to take some of the modules that are of interest for professional development. For example, operators may be interested in increasing their knowledge and skills in areas such as project management and industrial operations.

Program Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Utilize a wide variety of instrumentation and standardized protocols for the collection and analysis of samples and data required in the operation of water and wastewater facilities;
2. Collaborate with individuals and groups in testing and troubleshooting equipment at various water treatment and distribution facilities and at wastewater collection and treatment facilities;
3. Evaluate system design and operations based on current legislation, regulations and standards affecting water and wastewater treatment plants, scope and authority of facility permits and owner/operator responsibilities;
4. Develop risk management strategies including emergency response and disaster preparedness for water and wastewater systems;
5. Test and monitor microbiological parameters in water and wastewater applications and propose remediation strategies to reduce/ eliminate contaminants;
6. Assess current, innovative and emerging technologies in such areas as water conservation, alternative supply (e.g. rainwater) and zero-discharge for the provision of potable water and wastewater treatment and their possible applications within the industry;
7. Assess the sustainability of current infrastructure in water operations, considering maintenance plans, addressing future needs, energy utilization improvements, population growth and financing of water services.
8. Manage projects in the maintenance, renewal, and replacement of utility infrastructure using project planning and project management tools.
Minimum Admission Requirements
Students applying to Advanced Water Systems Operations and Management Co-op must meet the following requirements:

» Undergraduate degree or Ontario College diploma in a related field or equivalent

Applicants who do not meet the requirements listed above who possess a combination of education and relevant experience may be considered on an individual basis.

Vocational Learning Outcomes

» Utilize a wide variety of instrumentation and standardized protocols for the collection and analysis of samples and data required in the operation of water and wastewater facilities.
» Collaborate with individuals, groups in testing and troubleshooting equipment at various water treatment and distribution facilities and at wastewater collection and treatment facilities
» Evaluate system design and operations based on current legislation, regulations and standards affecting water and wastewater treatment plants, scope and authority of certificates of approval and owner/operator responsibilities
» Develop risk management strategies including emergency response and disaster preparedness for water and wastewater systems
» Test and monitor microbiological parameters in water and wastewater applications and propose remediation strategies to reduce, eliminate contaminants
» Assess current, innovative and emerging technologies in such areas as water conservation, alternative supply (e.g. rainwater) and zero-discharge for the provision of potable water and wastewater treatment and their possible applications within the industry
» Assess current infrastructures in water operations for ongoing maintenance plans to address future needs and changes in such areas as disaster preparedness, population growth and climate change
» Manage projects in the maintenance, renewal, and replacement of utility infrastructure using project planning and project management tools.
Courses and Descriptions

**SEMESTER 1**

Human Populations, Water, and the Environment  
ENVR 89  
Hours: 30

Infrastructure Management: Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection  
ENVR 91  
Hours: 45

Introduction to Water/Wastewater Mathematics  
MATH 147  
Hours: 30

Large Wastewater Treatment Systems  
ENVR 94  
Hours: 45

Small Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems  
ENVR 90  
Hours: 45

Wastewater Treatment Lab  
ENVR 137  
Hours: 45

Water and Wastewater Industrial Relations and Career Development  
ENVR 98  
Hours: 45

**SEMESTER 2**

Advanced Math and Critical Thinking for Water/Wastewater  
ENVR 139  
Hours: 30

Advanced Operations and Process Control  
ENVR 97  
Hours: 45

Industrial Water/Wastewater Treatment  
ENVR 96  
Hours: 45

Large Water Treatment Systems  
ENVR 92  
Hours: 45

Project Management  
ENVR 95  
Hours: 45

Utility Management  
ENVR 99  
Hours: 30

Water Treatment Lab  
ENVR 140  
Hours: 45

**SEMESTER 3**

Co-operative Education Experience  
APST 125  
Hours: 480

Graduate Field Summit  
APST 126  
Hours: 12