There’s never been a better time for women to train for a career in the water industry. Women who train for jobs or transfer skills and expertise to jobs in the water and wastewater industries enjoy diverse career opportunities, competitive salary and benefits packages, and typically excellent career stability. The work is critical to the future of everyone in California ... now that’s real job security.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester
Backflow Program Manager
*Biologist
*Chemist
Construction Inspector
Construction Laborer
Cross Connection Control Specialist
Electronic Technician
*Civil Engineer
*Electrical Engineer
Engineering Technician
Equipment Maintenance Technician
Field Operations Supervisor
GIS/Mapping Specialist
Inspector
Instrumentation and Control Technician
Instrumentation and Control Supervisor
Irrigation System Designer
Irrigation Technician
Laboratory Analyst
Landscape Water Auditor
Leak Detection Technician
Machinist
*Marine Biologist
Mechanical Systems Technician
Meter Maintenance Technician
Meter Reader
Plant Process Control Electrician
Plant Process Control Supervisor
Recycled Water Inspector
Reservoir Keeper
*Safety and Risk Manager
Survey Technician
Utility Worker
Underground Utilities Locator
Wastewater Plant Operator
*Wastewater Treatment Superintendent
Wastewater Collection Systems Operator
Water Conservation Specialist
Water Distribution Operator
Water Plant Operator
Water Treatment Superintendent
Water Usage Auditor
Water Systems Technician
*Bachelor Degree recommended

CWS.CAREERS
CUYAMACA COLLEGE
900 RANCHO SAN DIEGO PARKWAY
EL CAJON, CA 92019 (619) 660-4789

Make a difference every day. Train for a career in water.

Contact us today to learn when you can start training!
Water jobs aren’t just for guys.

Short-term training. Long-term reward. Local agencies employ approximately 4,500 men and women in water and wastewater jobs. Experts predict the need to fill an estimated 450 positions per year for at least the next five years as incumbent employees retire and demand for clean, potable water increases. More women can and should train for expanding job opportunities within the water and wastewater industries.

Let’s talk about your future in water. We think you’ll be more than surprised — you’ll be motivated!

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What are the specific jobs, occupations or careers in the water industry and wastewater fields?**

From entry-level clerical and manual labor positions to engineering, accounting, finance, customer service and management positions, there are a wide range of jobs and careers in water. Most entry-level positions start in the $40K-$45K range and mid-level technical jobs peak at about $70K - $75K within a few years. Supervisory and managerial positions often pay $100K+, but typically require industry certifications and/or a bachelor’s degree.

**What kinds of skills and jobs are great matches for transitioning into a water industry career?**

Skills like customer service, meter reading, engineering, CAD, computer application and database management, and complex problem solving help you migrate to higher paying field operations positions. Jobs that involve the operation, maintenance, and/or repair of construction, propulsion, power plants, power equipment, hydraulics, or pneumatic systems; running water treatment, wastewater purification, or reverse osmosis equipment often match well with water industry jobs. Experience working with piping, plumbing, or electrical or mechanical systems is good experience as is work in welding, damage control, some types of electronics and computer applications.

**What portable (transferable) industry skills will you acquire through community college training?**

Attending water and wastewater technology courses allows you to gain useful insights into how these critical systems work in your local area. There are also more technical classes on hydraulics, treatment plant operations, etc. Our classes provide college units of credit and/or contact hours that meet the State Water Resources Control Board Operator Certification Program requirements for taking the required tests in the various certification programs; i.e. Water Distribution System Operator (Grade D 1–5) or Water Treatment Plant Operator (Grade T 1–5). Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certifications (Grade 1-5). These California State certifications are among the most respected in the nation, so you may be able to obtain reciprocal certification in other states.

**How long will the average training program be, and will it include multiple course titles?**

Here’s a typical scenario: classes meet two nights per week for eight weeks at a time. Core courses are held at least once each semester, so new students can pick up the most essential classes right away. In preparation for passing the State certification tests, students are encouraged to pass at least three to four courses before taking an exam.

**Where are the jobs?**

There are far more entry level job and career opportunities in the field operations areas such as water distribution and wastewater collections than there are in water and wastewater treatment plant operations. This is because it only takes six to eight people to run a 100 million gallon per day water treatment plant, but it may take ten times that many to operate and repair the water storage and distribution system that delivers the water from the plant to the customers. Entry level jobs in the treatment plants usually require more technical and mechanical experience/apitudes and better math and science skills. Entry level jobs in water distribution and wastewater collection fields are generally much more physically demanding often requiring more upper body strength for performing tasks involving heavier lifting, digging, operating power equipment etc.

**What are the characteristics and general aptitude water industry recruiters hope students already possess?**

Recruiters are looking for folks who have demonstrated good work habits, reliability, maturity, leadership, and ability to work within a structured organization (chain of command), making decisions under pressure and adverse conditions, and the ability to take and pass tests for advancement to go along with their transferrable mechanical and technical skills.

**Where are the jobs?**

By diversifying a well-trained water industry workforce, we improve our ability to provide safe, clean water. CWS is partnering with water agencies to recruit and train more women to fill critically important jobs. Top-notch training and long-term career opportunities are just the beginning of the benefits that come with preparing yourself for a water industry career.

**Learning by Doing**

The Center for Water Studies (CWS) at Cuyamaca includes classroom and specialized work spaces designed exclusively for our expanded program of studies. Facilities include a state-of-the-art Field Operations Skills Yard, referred to as “the FOSY” that functions as a teaching space that integrates science, technology, engineering and math into a hands-on career preparation program. Students will be better prepared to manage, improve and maintain water and wastewater systems throughout the state.

The Center for Water Studies at Cuyamaca College offers the oldest continuously operating educational Water and Wastewater Technology Program in the California Community College system. With more than 28 different courses leading to Certificates of Achievement and/or Associate of Science degrees in six majors, it is also the most comprehensive and progressive program of its type in California.