



The Deep End: a Cohort Program on Water Basics

The program is a series of one-day sessions, twelve sessions in total, that allow up to 12 individuals new to water a chance to acclimate to the industry in a small group setting while learning the fundamentals of working in the water sector. Individuals participating in at least 9 sessions and completing a capstone project will receive a certificate of completion.

1. Introduction to Working in Water – 1/25
 - a. Human water cycle, where do you fit in?
 - b. Mentor/Mentee match*
2. One Water – Water Treatment
 - a. SDWA, Treatment processes, lab basics, tour a water plant – 2/22
3. One Water – Distribution and Field Operations – 3/28
 - a. Pipes (transmission mains, distribution mains, services) valve selection, pumps, tanks, community water supply permits (EDDY), tour a pump station
4. One Water – Collection and Maintenance– 4/25
 - a. Pipes (Trunk sewers, force mains, laterals), lift stations, capacity calculations, collection system permits (MIENVIRO)
5. One Water – Wastewater Treatment – 5/23
 - a. Basic treatment, biosolids, biodigesters, basic lab, Clean Water Act
6. One Water – Stormwater and Source Water Protection – 6/27
 - a. NPDES and other permits, source water protection plans, Watershed Councils/Orgs (LGROW)
7. Business of Water– 7/25
 - a. Meter reading, rate setting, customer service and billing, purchasing, budgeting basics, grants and state/federal funding
8. Government Affairs– 8/22
 - a. How water is regulated at the local, state, and federal levels
9. Career Planning (attend MI-ACE) – 9/10, ahead of MI-ACE
 - a. Personal 5-year professional development plan, preventing Overwhelmed, executive functioning, organizational skills
10. Communicating Effectively– 10/24
 - a. Engaging with management, networking, presentation skills
11. Introduction of Capstone– 11/14
12. Capstone wrap up, reception/celebration/graduation– TBD

*Mentorship – experienced professionals will be matched with individuals in the cohort. Mentor meetings will take place outside the scheduled class time.