**ECOLOGY**

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

GRE scores are not required for admission. Applicants should have a strong science background, including chemistry through organic chemistry, mathematics through calculus, physics, and biology. A limited number of such courses can be made up while the student is pursuing graduate studies.

Students with a background in another discipline that has potential value to original ecological work will be seriously considered. A junior/senior grade-point average of 3.00 or better (on a 4.00 scale) is required.

Students are strongly urged to choose their research interests and initiate communication with the relevant faculty member(s) before applying for admission. A student will not be admitted without the commitment of a faculty member to serve as the student’s research adviser. Teaching and research assistantships are available mainly through the student’s faculty adviser.

The following are required:

1. three or more letters of recommendation regarding the student’s academic and professional promise;
2. a concise statement describing the student’s goals both within the program and in professional life;
3. a curriculum vitae.

Specific inquiries about the Ecology Program may be directed to the program chair. Applications received by December 15 will have preferred consideration for assistantships and fellowships for fall semester admission.