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 (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

Scores from the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) are required for admission. A student may be admitted provisionally without GRE scores.

Application materials should be submitted before February by those who want to begin in summer or fall. For admission, an applicant should have at least a 2.75 grade-point average, a 3.00 junior/senior average, and courses that are basic to the individual's field of specialization. Ordinarily these include:

- 12 credits in communication,
- 12 credits in social sciences and humanities,
- 10 credits in quantification including calculus and statistics,
- 8 credits in chemistry and/or physics,
- 8 credits in biological sciences, and
- 18 credits in fish, wildlife, forestry, or related courses.

Three reference reports (forms supplied on request), and a brief statement describing the applicant's academic goals, career interests, and special qualifications are required. The best-qualified applicants will be accepted up to the number of spaces available. Exceptions to admission requirements may be made for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests.

Admission to the Ph.D. program in Wildlife and Fisheries Science requires a master's degree in wildlife and fisheries science or a closely related field, or a bachelor's degree with a minimum grade-point average of 3.30 and demonstrated research ability.
The following awards typically have been available to graduate students in this program:

**Forest Resources: Jesse Rossiter Rapp Memorial Scholarship**
Available to graduate students in the School of Forest Resources who are not holding assistantships as graduate students. Apply to the School of Forest Resources’ Scholarships, Loans, and Awards Committee.

**Roger M. Latham Memorial Award**
Awarded to outstanding graduate students specializing in wildlife or fisheries after at least one semester in residence.

### Courses
Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Wildlife and Fisheries Science (WFS) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/wfs)

### Learning Outcomes

#### Master of Science (m.S.)

1. **KNOW:** Graduates in these three masters programs will have obtained knowledge of core theories and methods as demonstrated by courses completed and grades earned at the bachelor’s level. Graduates will exhibit breadth and depth of understanding in their respective disciplines in courses completed at the master’s level.

2. **APPLY/CREATE:** Graduates in these three masters programs will be able to clearly synthesize literature and theories in their disciplinary areas and/or in their specialized thesis topics. Such synthesis will help generate new ideas or methods to develop unique solutions to the problems in the three disciplinary programs.

3. **COMMUNICATE:** Graduates in these three masters programs will effectively communicate ideas, arguments, and rationales in clear, concise, well-organized publications (abstracts, papers, proposals) and presentations (conferences, seminars, and research meetings).

4. **THINK:** Graduates in these three masters programs will be able to critically analyze the work of others in their field of specialty. Such analyses will help graduate students to demonstrate proficiency in designing a research strategy to answer important questions and to improve their own work.

5. **PROF. PRACTICE:** Graduates in these three masters programs will demonstrate the highest ethical standards and core values (including Penn State Core Values) within their discipline and other diverse scientific backgrounds.

#### Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.d.)

1. **KNOW:** Graduates in these three doctoral programs will have obtained the knowledge of the core theories and methods at the bachelors and/or master’s levels. Graduates will exhibit breadth and depth of understanding in their respective disciplines in courses completed at the doctoral level.

2. **APPLY/CREATE:** Graduates in these three doctoral programs will be able to clearly synthesize literature and theories in their disciplinary areas and/or in their specialized thesis/dissertation topics. Such synthesis will help generate new ideas or methods to develop unique solutions to the problems in the three disciplinary doctoral programs.

### Student Aid
Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-500/gsad-501-credit-loads-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

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**Contact**

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**Program Website**
View (http://ecosystems.psu.edu/graduateprograms/wfs)