

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCE

Degree Requirements

Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

In addition to Graduate Council requirements, 6 credits of statistics and 2 credits of colloquium are required.

Each entering student receives individual guidance from an adviser, and later from his or her committee, in designing a program of studies and research based on his or her own interests. The student is responsible for conforming to all requirements summarized in the "Graduate Studies Handbook" of the School of Forest Resources, and for completing the degree program within a reasonable time, i.e., two years for a master's degree.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

Doctoral students would normally emphasize either wildlife or fisheries in their course selection. Course work shall include at least 15 graduate credits beyond those required for an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. At least 9 of these credits must include courses at the 500 level with a Wildlife and Fisheries Science designation.

An international communications or cultural requirement is required for the Ph.D. degree. This requirement may be satisfied by demonstrating competence in one foreign language equivalent to passing two or three college-level courses. It also may be met by two courses in one or two contemporary foreign cultures. With approval of the Ph.D. committee, a student may petition the Graduate Faculty of the school for waiver of the international communications or culture requirement.

Students must pass the qualifying examination during their first year of residence and a comprehensive examination which is given after all course requirements have been completed. The final examination is oral; all doctoral students are required to present a public seminar on their dissertation prior to the final examination.

Each entering student receives individual guidance from an adviser, and later from his or her committee, in designing a program of studies and research based on his or her own interests. The student is responsible for conforming to all requirements summarized in the "Graduate Studies Handbook" of the School of Forest Resources, and for completing the degree program within a reasonable time, i.e., three years for a Ph.D.

Watershed Stewardship Option

The Graduate Option in Watershed Stewardship is intended to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students with an interest in water resources management who are enrolled in a graduate degree program within Wildlife and Fisheries Science. The objective of the Graduate Option in Watershed Stewardship is to educate students to facilitate team-oriented, community-based watershed management planning directed at water resources problems encountered in Pennsylvania

communities, especially nonpoint source water pollution. The Graduate Option in Watershed Stewardship requires 22 credits of graduate course work:

Code	Title	Credits
Select 12 credits of breadth courses ¹		12
FOR 591A & FOR 591B or LARCH 510	Seminar in Watershed Stewardship Issues and Seminar in Watershed Stewardship Planning ² Graduate Seminar in Landscape Architecture	2
Select one of the following sequences:		8
FOR 570 & FOR 571	Watershed Stewardship Practicum I and Watershed Stewardship Practicum II	
LARCH 817 & LARCH 550	Grad Studio III and Master of Landscape Architecture Project Studio	
Total Credits		22

¹ Breadth courses will consist of three graduate credits of course work from each of four subject matter areas:

1. water resources science
2. social science, public policy and economics
3. humanities
4. communications and design

² One credit of FOR 591A or FOR 591B would count as a colloquium course toward degree requirements, but at least 1 additional credit of FOR 590 is required.

In the watershed stewardship practicum courses students work in teams with community, government and business leaders to analyze and understand natural resources problems and creatively synthesize appropriate solutions in the form of a written watershed management plan.

A list of acceptable breadth courses from each discipline is provided in the Graduate Option in Watershed Stewardship Handbook. Students will be allowed to petition to the Center for Watershed Stewardship to substitute higher level or equivalent courses in a major field to suit their specific backgrounds and goals. Courses taken for the Graduate Option in Watershed Stewardship may be used to satisfy other equivalent (400- or 500-level) degree requirements with concurrence of their adviser and Ph.D. committee. The Ph.D. committee for a student enrolled in the Option in Watershed Stewardship must include a faculty representative from the Center for Watershed Stewardship.

Students enrolled in M.S. or Ph.D. degree programs within Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences may apply to participate in the Graduate Option in Watershed Stewardship.