

# Forestry

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## Department Head and Graduate Coordinator: Dr. Andrew W. Ezell

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Graduate study is offered in the Department of Forestry leading to the degrees of

- Master of Science (M.S.) in Forestry (Main Campus and Distance Campus) and
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Forest Resources with a concentration in Forestry.

Specialized areas of study include:

- forest business
- forest management and economics
- forest genetics
- forest hydrology and soils
- forest ecology
- forest ecophysiology
- ecohydrology
- silviculture
- forest biometrics
- spatial technologies in natural resource management
- forest harvesting and operations
- urban and community forestry
- forest recreation
- wildlife and other natural resource economics.

Graduate teaching and research assistantships are available to qualified students.

## Admission

### M.S. in the Department of Forestry

Admission to the M.S. program in the Department of Forestry requires:

1. a Bachelor's degree from an accredited university;
2. a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher for the last 60 hours of undergraduate study (for regular admission) **or** a GPA between 2.5 and 2.99 (for provisional admission);
3. a TOEFL score of 550 PBT (79 iBT) or IELTS score of 6.5 or higher for regular admission of international students **or** a TOEFL score between 477 and 549 (or IELTS equivalent) for conditional admission; and
4. acceptance by a faculty member who will serve as the student's major professor. In addition, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores may be requested of students applying for provisional admission or international students applying from non-accredited universities or colleges.

### Ph.D. in the Department of Forestry

Admission to the Ph.D. program in the Department of Forestry requires:

1. a Bachelor's degree from an accredited university and an M.S. degree in a related field (or approval for exceptions to the Master's requirement);
2. a GPA of 3.10 or higher on prior graduate courses **or** 3.25 or higher for the last 60 hours of undergraduate study (for exceptions to the Master's requirement);
3. a TOEFL score of 550 PBT (213 CBT or 79 iBT) or IELTS score of 6.5 or higher for regular admission of international students **or** a TOEFL score between 477 and 549 (or IELTS equivalent) for conditional admission; and
4. acceptance by a faculty member who will serve as the student's major professor. In addition, GRE scores may be requested of international students applying from non-accredited universities or colleges. There is no provisional admission to the doctoral program.

## Provisional Admission

Provisional admission does not apply to doctoral applicants. Only Master's degree applicants who have a GPA between 2.50 and 2.99 for the last 60 semester hours of their undergraduate program may be admitted under provisional status, if accepted by a faculty member in the department. Scores on the GRE General Test may be required by that faculty member to evaluate the student's potential to complete the program successfully.

A student who has not fully met the GPA or other requirements stipulated by the University may be admitted on a provisional basis. The provisionally-admitted student is eligible for a change to regular status after receiving a 3.00 GPA on the first 9 hours of graduate courses at Mississippi State University (with no grade lower than a C). The first 9 hours of graduate courses must be within the student's program of study. Courses with an S grade, transfer credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement. If a 3.00 is not attained, the provisional student **shall** be dismissed from the graduate program. Academic departments may set higher standards for students to fulfill provisional requirements; a student admitted with provisional status should contact the graduate coordinator for the program's specific requirements. **While in the provisional status, a student is not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.**

## Academic Performance

A graduate student must maintain a 3.00 GPA to remain on a graduate assistantship and must have a 3.00 GPA to receive his/her degree. A main campus student who begins the program in regular status and falls below a 3.00 cumulative GPA after the start of the program will be placed on probationary status in the following semester and must regain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 within the next two subsequent semesters or within 9 credit hours of graduate coursework, whichever comes first (providing that the student attains a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all semesters during the probationary period). A distance education student who begins the M.S. program in regular status and falls below a 3.00 cumulative GPA after the start of the program will be placed on probationary status in the following semester and will be allowed 9 credit hours of graduate coursework to bring his/her cumulative GPA back to 3.00 regardless of the number of semesters (providing that the student attains a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all semesters during the probationary period). If this is not accomplished, the student will be dismissed from the graduate program. A student admitted on provisional status will not be allowed a probationary semester but will be dismissed if the GPA falls below 3.00.

A student receiving any grade of D or F in any course taken after admission to the graduate program will be placed on academic probation and will be required to maintain satisfactory academic performance in all subsequent semesters of his/her graduate program or will be dismissed from the graduate program and lose eligibility for readmission. A student receiving a grade of U will have one semester to bring his/her performance back up to satisfactory or will be dismissed from the graduate program and lose eligibility for readmission.

## Prerequisite and Core Courses

There are no prerequisite or core graduate-level courses required of all graduate students in the Department of Forestry. Each area of emphasis, and each student's research or professional paper assignment, will influence what courses are required.

## Master of Science in Forestry - Thesis

Graded graduate-level forestry courses	12
Graded 8000-level coursework	12
FO 8000                      Thesis Research/ Thesis in Forestry	6
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>30</b>

Requirements including passing a comprehensive oral examination on coursework taken, passing a final comprehensive defense of the thesis, completing all required changes to the thesis, securing final approval of the thesis, and formally applying for graduation before the Graduate Academic Calendar deadline.

If a minor is chosen in another field, at least 9 hours in the minor area must be taken, and a committee member from the minor area is required (refer to individual departmental requirements for minors). In conjunction with the student, the student's graduate committee will determine what courses are best suited for the program of study.

## Master of Science in Forestry - Non-Thesis

Graded graduate-level Forestry courses	12
Graded 8000-level coursework	15
FO 8293                      Professional Paper	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>30</b>

A comprehensive oral examination will be administered on coursework taken and the professional paper. Other requirements include passing a final comprehensive defense of the paper, completing all required changes, securing final approval of the professional paper, and formally applying for graduation before the Graduate Academic Calendar deadline.

If a minor is chosen in another field, at least 9 hours in the minor area must be taken, and a committee member from the minor area is required (refer to individual departmental requirements for minors). In conjunction with the student, the student's graduate committee will determine what courses are best suited for the program of study.

## Doctor of Philosophy in Forestry

Graduate-level coursework (beyond the Bachelor's degree) including 12 credit hours of coursework in the area of emphasis (preferably Forestry)	24
FO 9000 Dissertation Research/Dissertation in Forestry	20
Additional graduate-level courses and/or dissertation/research credit hours	10
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>54</b>

A doctoral student's graduate committee will determine the number of course hours required for the Ph.D. degree based on the student's academic background and courses currently available at MSU. This must include a minimum of 24 graded coursework hours beyond the Bachelor's degree, the MSU requirement of at least 20 hours of FO 9000 Research/Dissertation credit, and any requirement of full-time enrollment for an assistantship. Other requirements include preliminary and/or comprehensive examinations, a final oral examination, and a dissertation.

If a minor is chosen, at least 12 hours in the minor area must be taken, and a committee member from the minor area is required.

Completion of the Ph.D. program requires passing all courses on the approved doctoral program of study with a GPA of 3.00 or higher after admission to the program, passing a preliminary/comprehensive examination for admission to candidacy when within 6 hours of completing coursework, writing a dissertation, passing a final comprehensive defense of the dissertation, completing all required changes, securing final approval of the dissertation, and formally applying for graduation before the deadline published in the Graduate Academic Calendar.