

Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Department Head and Graduate Coordinator: Dr. Andrew J. Kouba

Thompson Hall 109
Box 9690
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9690
Telephone: (662) 325-3830
E-mail: edibble@msstate.edu

The Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department offers graduate education leading to the Master of Science in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture with emphases in wildlife ecology, fisheries ecology, and aquaculture.

A Ph.D. degree is offered in Forest Resources with a concentration in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture. A limited number of graduate research assistantships and fellowships are available. For additional information write to the Department Head (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/colleges-degree-programs/forest-resources/wildlife-fisheries-aquaculture/#department-head>).

Admission Criteria

The applicant for a master's degree must hold a bachelor's degree and must be sponsored by an extramurally funded research project. The applicant for the Ph.D. degree must hold a master's degree and also is usually sponsored by an extramurally funded research project. It is strongly encouraged for the applicant to personally contact a professor within the department to discuss potential research opportunities. An applicant cannot be admitted to the department until a faculty member agrees to serve as an advisor. The applicant for the master's program must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 out of 4.00 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate academic work and must take the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE). An applicant for the Ph.D. program must have an M.S. degree, a minimum GPA of 3.20 out of 4.00 on all prior graduate studies (excluding research or thesis credits), and must have taken the general GRE. Official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate work, GRE, and TOEFL or IELTS scores (if appropriate) should be sent to the MSU Office of the Graduate School.

Provisional Admission

A student entering on a provisional basis (available only for master's students) is required to take three graduate courses (minimum of 9 hours) in the first regular fall or spring semester and make a grade of B or higher in each of these courses. These courses will be selected by the departmental Graduate Program Committee and will not include special problem courses or thesis research. Failure to meet the grade requirement may result in dismissal and loss of eligibility for readmission to this department's graduate program. Students on probation are not eligible for an assistantship but may be paid wages.

Students must maintain a cumulative 3.00 GPA on all courses after admission to the program. If a master's student falls below a 3.00 cumulative average, he/she will be placed on probation for the next fall or spring semester. A master's student admitted under normal circumstances (not provisional) will be allowed only one probationary semester. If a student is admitted on a provisional basis, he/she will be allowed one probationary semester beyond that point. If grades do not meet the required B or better in each course taken, the student's program will result in immediate termination. The department has an appeal process in the event the student wishes to file an appeal. A doctoral student falling below a 3.00 cumulative average after admission to the program will be immediately dropped from the program unless the student's committee justifies an exception which is reviewed by the departmental Graduate Program Committee and then approved by the department head.

Unsatisfactory Performance

All graduate students are expected to know and comply with University, departmental, and subject-area requirements. Failure to comply satisfactorily with all requirements may seriously affect the student and, in some cases, may lead to termination of assistantships or dismissal from the graduate program in this department.

Program of Study/Completion Requirements

Prior to submitting the formal program of study to the department head, the student's graduate committee and major professor will be selected and officially appointed in consultation with the student. A Committee Request Form must be completed by the student with committee members' signatures and submitted to the department head in the first semester of enrollment. Master of Science graduate committees must include at least three members of the graduate faculty, including the major professor, four if the student has a minor area of study. With permission of the dean of the College, a special appointment (with graduate committee participant status) may be made for a faculty member not holding a graduate faculty appointment to serve on a student's committee until the student graduates. Adjunct appointments at the departmental level should be sought in the rare case where continuous student committee involvement is expected due to the nature of the relationship of the candidate and/or his/her agency with the department.

If the student has a minor field outside the department, at least one member of the graduate committee must be from the minor area of study, and that member will be the student's minor professor. A Ph.D. student's committee will include the major professor (or co-major professors) as chairperson(s), who must be a full member(s) (Level 1) of the graduate faculty and from the major field, a minor professor (if a minor is being pursued by the student), and at least three other members, two of whom are from the student's major field of interest. If, during the course of a student's tenure, his/her research

direction changes, it may be necessary to change the members of the graduate committee or the student's advisor. Such changes must be submitted on a change of committee request form.

The graduate committee and the master's student will meet during the student's first semester of work to prepare the program of study. This is followed by a mandatory seminar regarding the proposed research plan. The graduate committee and the Ph.D. student will meet during the student's second semester of work after he/she has taken any needed statistics courses to prepare the program of study. The student must complete this form with the help of his/her major professor and concurrence of his/her graduate committee. A doctoral student's program of study is required in the Office of the Graduate School when the preliminary/comprehensive examination is scheduled. The program of study will be kept in the department head's office and forwarded to the Graduate School during the student's last semester of coursework.

Master of Science in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture

8000-level coursework	12
Graduate-level coursework	9
Graduate-level statistics course	3
WFA 8000	6
Thesis Research/ Thesis in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture	6
Total Hours	30

A research proposal seminar, thesis defense and comprehensive oral examination are required.

Doctor of Philosophy in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Ph.D. student is required to have 20 hours of WFA 9000 and must meet the residency requirement of three years with one full semester (9 hours) or two semesters half-time (6 hours each) to the graduate program. The Ph.D. requires one graduate-level statistics course, variable hours of coursework (determined by the graduate committee), oral and written comprehensive preliminary examinations, a dissertation and oral defense of the dissertation.