Division of Forestry and Natural Resources

Degrees Offered

• Master of Science in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources
• Master of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources
• Master of Science in Forestry

Areas of Emphasis

• Forest Resources Management
• Wood Science and Technology
• Doctor of Philosophy in Forest Resources Science
  • Areas of Emphasis
    • Forest Resources Management
    • Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources
    • Wildlife and Fisheries Resources
    • Wood Science and Technology

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The Division of Forestry and Natural Resources offers three master of science degree programs in recreation, parks and tourism resources, wildlife and fisheries resources, and forest resources management. Students wishing to pursue a master of science in forest resources management or wood science and technology should apply for admission to the master of science in forestry. A student seeking admission to work toward the degree of doctor of philosophy in forest resources science in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design may choose the following as their major field of study: forest resources management; recreation, parks, and tourism resources; wood science and technology; or wildlife and fisheries resources. Within these major fields of study, specialization is limited only by the range of competencies in the graduate faculty.

Faculty

Director

• Joseph F. McNeel - Ph.D. (Virginia Tech)
  Professor, Forest Engineering, Forest Operations

Program Coordinators

• John R. Brooks - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  Forest Resource Management, Professor, Forest Biometrics
• James T. Anderson - Ph.D. (Texas Tech)
  Wildlife and Fisheries Resources, Professor, Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology, Fish Management, Tropics Ecology
• David A. Smaldone - Ph.D. (University of Idaho)
  Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Associate Professor, Environmental Interpretation and Education
• David DeVallance - Ph.D. (Oregon State University)
  Wood Science and Technology, Associate Professor, Biocomposites, Bioenergy, and Material Processing

Professors

• James T. Anderson - Ph.D. (Texas Tech University)
  Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife Ecology and Management
• Benjamin E. Dawson-Andoh - Ph.D. (University of British Columbia)
  Wood Science, Wood Chemistry, Wood Preservation
• John W. Edwards - Ph.D. (Clemson University)
  Wildlife and Fisheries, Endangered Species Ecology and Management, Forest Wildlife/Habitat Relationships
• Kyle J. Hartman - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
  Wildlife and Fisheries, Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology, Fish Management, Trophic Ecology
• David W. McGill - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
  Forest Resources Management, Extension Specialist, Forest Resources, Non-industrial Private Forestry
• J. Todd Petty - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  Wildlife and Fisheries, Fisheries and Stream Ecology
• Steven W. Selin - Ph.D. (University of Oregon)
  Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Collaborative Stewardship
• Robert C. Whitmore - Ph.D. (Brigham Young University)
  Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife Management, Avian Ecology, Quantitative Ecology

Associate Professors
• Kathryn G. Arano - Ph.D. (Mississippi State University)
  Forest Resources Management, Forest Economics
• Robert C. Burns - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
  Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Leisure Studies
• Jinyang Deng - Ph.D. (University of Alberta)
  Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Recreation and Leisure Studies

Assistant Professors
• Gregory A. Dahle - Ph.D. (Rutgers University)
  Forest Resources Management, Aboriculture
• David B. DeVallance - Ph.D. (Oregon State University)
  Wood Science, Sustainable Product Development
• Kudzayi Maumbe - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Tourism Marketing
• Gloria S. Oporto - Ph.D. (University of Maine - Orono)
  Wood Science, Wood-based Composites and Bioproducts
• Kaushlendra Singh - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  Wood Science, Biofuel and Bioenergy Production
• Benjamin D. Spong - Ph.D. (Oregon State University)
  Wood Science, Extension Specialist, Forest Operations
• Anthony C. Tomkowski - M.S.F. (West Virginia University)
  Forest Resources Management, Forestry, Fisheries, Forest Water Quality
• Amy B. Welsh - Ph.D. (University of California - Davis)
  Wildlife and Fisheries, Ecology, Conservation Genetics
• Nicolas P. Zegre - Ph.D. (Oregon State University)
  Forest Resources Management, Forest Hydrology
• Mo Zhou - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
  Forest Resources Management, Forest Economics

Research Assistant Professors
• Todd E. Katzner - Ph.D. (Arizona State University)
  Wildlife and Fisheries Resources, Extension Specialist
• Stuart A. Moss - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  Forest Resources Management, Forest Business Management
• James S. Rentch - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  Forest Resources Management, Forest Ecology and Management

Teaching Assistant professor
• George T. Merovich - Ph.D. (University of Arizona)
  Wildlife and Fisheries, Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology, Quantitative Ecology

Adjunct Faculty
• Kelly Bricker - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
  Recreation, Parks, and Tourism
• Adam E. Duerr - Ph.D. (University of Vermont)
  Wildlife and Fisheries
• Nathan J. Harlan - M.A. (Geneva College)
  Recreation, Parks, and Tourism
• Patricia M. Mazik - Ph.D. (Memphis State University)
  Wildlife Fisheries
• Gary Miller - Ph.D. (Virginia Tech)
Admission Requirements—Master’s Degree Programs

Admission requirements for applicants are similar to the requirements for admission to the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design. The master of science degree is offered in four programs: forestry (forest resources management or wood science and technology emphasis), wildlife and fisheries resources; and recreation, parks, and tourism resources. In nearly every case, the program of study will require two years of on-campus residence.

M.S. in Forestry: Students seeking admission for the degree of master of science in forestry should have completed an undergraduate curriculum emphasizing forestry or wood science. A student whose undergraduate degree is in a field other than these two areas of study will ordinarily be required
to take supplemental undergraduate courses. Candidates may emphasize study in bioenergy, biocomposites, forest biometry, forest ecology, forest economics, forest hydrology, forest management, forest operations, silviculture, sustainable construction, or forest products marketing. The candidate must complete thirty hours of approved study, six hours of which shall constitute a thesis, or thirty-six hours of approved study without a thesis but including a three-hour problem paper. For details regarding the Forest Resources Management Program, go to: http://forestresources.wvu.edu/. For details regarding the Wood Science and Technology Program, go to: http://woodscience.wvu.edu/.

**M.S. in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources:** Students seeking admission for the degree of master of science in recreation, parks, and tourism resources should have completed an undergraduate curriculum emphasizing natural resources recreation. A student whose undergraduate degree is in a field other than this discipline will ordinarily be required to take supplemental undergraduate courses as part of their degree work. Students selecting this graduate program may emphasize recreation management and policy, environmental education and interpretation, or natural resource-based tourism. The candidate must complete thirty hours of approved study, six hours of which shall constitute a thesis, or thirty-six semester hours without a thesis but including a three credit-hour problem paper. For more information, go to: http://recreation.wvu.edu/.

**M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources:** Students seeking admission for the degree of master of science in wildlife and fisheries resources should have completed an undergraduate curriculum emphasizing wildlife and/or fisheries sciences. A student whose undergraduate degree is in a field other than this discipline will ordinarily be required to take supplemental undergraduate courses as part of their degree work. Students selecting this graduate program may emphasize in either wildlife or fisheries resources in their studies. The candidate must complete thirty hours of approved study, six hours of which shall constitute a thesis, or thirty-six hours of approved study without a thesis but including a three-hour problem paper. For more information, go to: http://wildlife.wvu.edu/.

**Peace Corps Master’s International Program:** The Division of Forestry and Natural Resources is also an active participant in the Peace Corps Master’s International program. The vision of the WVU-PCMI is to prepare graduate students with the advanced coursework, research experience, and professional guidance needed to succeed in Peace Corps service and in careers related to environmental science and policy, forestry and natural resource management, and sustainable development. For more information go to: http://peacecorps.davis.wvu.edu/.

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**Curriculum Requirements for Ph.D.**

Curriculum requirements for all Ph.D. candidates include a block of graduate courses in the major field, which will constitute a comprehensive review of the significant knowledge in that field and a block of graduate courses in a minor field of study. A minimum of sixty semester hours beyond the bachelor’s degree and exclusive of the dissertation is required.

**Dissertation and Final Examination**

The research work for the doctoral dissertation must show a high degree of scholarship and must present an original contribution to the field of forest and natural resources science. In addition to coursework and the dissertation, the candidate is required to pass a qualifying examination and a final examination.