

Wildlife and Fisheries Resources

Degrees Offered

- Master of Science with a major in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources

The Wildlife and Fisheries Resources Program at WVU is dedicated to developing the next generation of young fisheries and wildlife professionals. This program offers two levels of advanced degree with a master of science in wildlife and fisheries resources and a Ph.D. in forest resources available. At the M.S. or Ph.D. level, students work closely with their faculty advisor and mentor to develop a unique research program that will prepare them for a career in this field. Students typically focus on either wildlife or fisheries for these advanced degrees. Coursework for these degrees varies depending upon the career goals of the student, past course history, and educational needs for the intended research project. Since 2011, we have required that all graduates complete necessary coursework to obtain professional certification as a biologist by The Wildlife Society or The American Fisheries Society by the time of graduation. Typically all students take two semesters of statistics (STAT 511 and 512) and an advanced GIS class. Students interested in graduate study in our program can apply online through the graduate admissions office but are encouraged to contact faculty members who may share their research interests.

Admissions

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 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/>.

A candidate for the M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources must meet all University, College, Division, and Program requirements as outlined in the WVU Graduate Catalog.

Program Requirements

All M.S. degree candidates are required to follow a planned program of study. The student develops the plan of study during their first year in the program in conjunction with the graduate committee. The plan must be approved by the Director of the Division and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Davis College.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses applied toward degree requirements.

WMAN 694A	Seminar	1
Wildlife Seminar		2
WMAN 770	Wildlife Seminar	
FOR 698	Thesis or Dissertation	3
FOR 797	Research	3
Additional Coursework		21
500, 600, or 700 level in BIOL, ENVP, ENTO, FMAN, FOR, GEN, GEOG, GEOL, RESM, STAT, WMAN		
Thesis Proposal		
Oral Examination		
Thesis		
Thesis Defense		
Total Hours		30

- * Students must complete a minimum of 30 total hours, of which at least 24 hours must be coursework other than research, thesis, project, internship, etc. credits.

Major Learning Outcomes

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

Upon the successful completion of a Wildlife and Fisheries Resources degree students will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of historic and contemporary wildlife or fisheries topics.
- Critique and assess peer-reviewed literature and apply research findings to the conservation and management of wildlife and fisheries resources.
- Conduct and defend original research focused on wildlife or fisheries that includes project design, collecting, analyzing and interpreting data, publishing results in scientific journals, and presenting results to scientific audiences.