MS in Natural Resources with Emphasis in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences

Application and Admission Information

Admission Contact Information
Graduate Secretary
302 Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building
Columbia, MO 65211
Karen Decker; deckerkf@missouri.edu; (573) 882-3436

Admission Criteria

Fall deadline: Rolling

- Minimum TOEFL scores:
  - Internet-based test (iBT)
    - 79
  - Paper-based test (PBT)
    - 550

- Minimum GRE scores:
  - Prior to August 1, 2011
    - Verbal + Quantitative: 1100
  - On or After August 1, 2011
    - 1100 equivalent scores

- Minimum GPA: 3.2 in last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.
- Experience in research or management of natural resources.
  Practical skills are strongly considered.

Required Application Materials

To the Graduate School:

- All application materials must be submitted to the Apply Yourself (https://applygrad.missouri.edu/apply) online application system
- All required Graduate School documents
- A minimum of three letters of recommendation and the accompanying evaluation sheets from people who can attest to the candidate’s scholastic and conservation field work abilities
- Departmental application
- Written response to 1 of 5 questions listed on the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Graduate Program Admissions page
- GRE scores
- TOEFL scores (when applicable)
- Publications (optional)
- Résumé or CV

We require applicants to contact specific faculty to determine the availability of research assistantships prior to applying to the program.

An applicant contemplating graduate work in fisheries, limnology, conservation biology, or wildlife should have a strong background in biological and physical sciences, including biology, botany, zoology, ecology, physiology, and genetics. In addition, such taxonomic courses as plant taxonomy, invertebrate zoology, ichthyology, ornithology, and mammalogy are highly desirable, as is a background in chemistry, mathematics, statistics, and physics.

A background of 25 to 30 hours in biological sciences courses is desirable. Minor deficiencies may be remedied during the graduate program; major deficiencies may require preparatory coursework prior to consideration for admission.

Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences degrees emphasize resource management at organismal, population, or ecosystem scales. An emphasis on resource management helps distinguish our program from basic biology; therefore, course work in fisheries or wildlife management, environmental science, resource policy, or other applied ecology fields is advantageous.

Degree Completion Requirements

Master’s students must complete, with a B average or better, a minimum of 30 hours of course work (15 hours or more at the 8000 course level). Research, problems, special investigations, and special readings courses shall not exceed 12 of the 30 hours.

Plan of Study

Candidates are expected to design and have approved by their committee a plan of study during their first semester in residence and a thesis proposal by their second semester.

Thesis & Oral Examination

A thesis acceptable to the student’s graduate committee shall be completed and defended in a final oral examination; all candidates must complete the oral examination and a final thesis seminar before the degree is conferred.