MS in Natural Resources with Emphasis in Forestry

Graduate research programs leading to the M.S. in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Forestry are designed to prepare students for careers in academic institutions, consulting firms, industry, and state and federal agencies.

Forestry graduates interested in research or teaching may concentrate much of their course work in one or more of the related sciences with a thesis appropriate to forestry. Specialized graduate education is available in agroforestry, biometrics, community and landscape ecology, economics, fire ecology, hydrology, geographic information systems, physiological ecology, physiology, policy, silviculture, forest soils, forest management, stand dynamics, water quality, wood quality and tree-ring analysis.

Students often conduct joint research with natural resource specialists at the Northern Research Station (U.S. Forest Service), the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Degree Requirements

To attain the master’s degree:

- 30 hours of course work must be completed.
- 15 hours or more must be 8000+ level.
- Research, problems, special investigations and special readings courses must not exceed 12 of the 30 hours.
- The GPA of all course work submitted for the degree must be 3.0 or better.

Graduate students typically enroll in courses from across campus. For graduate students of Forestry emphasis area who lack academic or experiential background in forestry, the graduate committee may recommend several courses to compensate for that deficiency. Forestry graduate students commonly enroll in dual undergraduate / graduate courses at the 7000 level, FOREST 7330, FOREST 7375, FOREST 7320, FOREST 7390.

For a graduate students emphasizing forestry, Natural Resources Seminar (NAT_R 9087) is the only required course in the graduate student’s program of study. All graduate students are expected to attend all forestry seminars and SNR graduate seminars regardless of whether the student is enrolled in the seminar course.

Thesis Requirements

A master’s thesis, or a minimum of 5 semester hours of non-thesis research acceptable to the student’s committee, shall be completed before the final examination. Research toward a thesis normally shall not exceed 8 hours. Thesis requirements and defense are as defined by the MU Graduate School. A final oral examination is given to all candidates before completion of the degree.

Admissions

Admission Contact Information
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Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the MS in Natural Resources with emphasis in Forestry (https://gradstudies.missouri.edu/degreecategory/natural-resources) program and the minimum requirements of the Graduate School (https://gradschool.missouri.edu/admissions/eligibility-process). Because requirements vary, you must refer to a degree program’s graduate admission page to learn about specific admission criteria, application deadlines, eligibility and application process. Your application materials will be reviewed by both the Graduate School and the degree program to which you’ve applied before official admission to the University of Missouri.

Students without a Forestry Undergraduate Degree

Those without a baccalaureate degree in forestry may wish to further their education in forest science or to attain professional competence by completing course work in forestry. Work required of students without a forestry degree who want a professional forestry education includes courses in dendrology (FOREST 2151), utilization of forest resources (FOREST 2541), forest resource measurements (FOREST 4380 or FOREST 7380), forest inventory (FOREST 2542), forest fire control and use (FOREST 3207), forest ecology (FOREST 4320 or FOREST 7320), silviculture (FOREST 2544), watershed management (FOREST 7390), and forest economics (FOREST 4350 or FOREST 7350). Some of these courses do not carry graduate credit.