MS in Natural Resources with Emphasis in Agroforestry

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Emphasis Area Focus

Agroforestry, as a farming system that integrates crops and/or livestock with trees and shrubs, has a long history of interdisciplinary research at the University of Missouri. The interdisciplinary emphasis area capitalizes on existing agroforestry research collaborations across The School of Natural Resources (SNR) departments in building an academic program that could attract and serve quality graduate students from Missouri, the nation and the world. The agroforestry emphasis area offers both a thesis and non-thesis option. The program also offers an online option designed for professionals working in natural resources around the globe who already have an undergraduate degree in a related field. Please visit the online webpage for more information: http://online.missouri.edu/degreeprograms/cafnr/agroforestry/masters/. For a listing of Faculty membership of the graduate Agroforestry Emphasis Area: https://snr.missouri.edu/graduate-studies/agroforestry-graduate-program/

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the agroforestry graduate emphasis will develop their course of study to incorporate 12 hours of a core curriculum of designated courses. This has been designed to include theoretical foundations in both the biophysical and socioeconomic components of agroforestry. The curriculum leads the student through a progression of learning and applying concepts related to (A) Agroforestry Fundamentals; (B) Biophysical Foundation; and (C) Socioeconomic Foundation (Table 1).

Each student’s coursework requirements, including the selection of specific courses in the above categories, will be evaluated individually by the MU Graduate School. Students choosing the non-thesis option will be required to write a project plan and to make an oral defense of that plan within the first year following their initial enrollment in the program. Students choosing the non-thesis option will write a technical report based on their research and participate in a public oral defense of their thesis announced at least two weeks prior to the defense date.

Non-Thesis option:

Students in the non-thesis option will complete 30 credit hours of course work with no more than 6 credits for a project. Students choosing the non-thesis option will be required to write a project plan and to make an oral defense of that plan within the first year following their initial enrollment in the program. Students choosing the non-thesis option will write a technical report based on their project and participate in a public oral defense of their report to be announced at least two weeks prior to the defense.

Timeline Requirements:

1. Within six month of initial enrollment in the emphasis area, students must submit a plan of study.
2. Within one year of initial enrollment in the emphasis area, students must present a written proposal of their research or project proposal to be reviewed and approved by members of the students’ Masters Committee.
3. Students will submit a written thesis or project report following the guidelines specified by the Graduate School. All students must present a public oral defense of their dissertation or project announced at least two weeks prior to the defense date. Electronic media may be used to facilitate the defense for online/distance education students when appropriate.
4. All students will submit an annual report of their progress as required by the MU Graduate School.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline from an accredited institution
- Undergraduate GPA: 3.0 on a scale of 4.0
- Graduate Record Exam score (GRE)*: verbal plus quantitative total of at least 1100 (300 on the new GRE)
- Students whose GPAs and GRE scores do not meet the requirements will be evaluated individually

Table 1. The 12-cr core curriculum for the Agroforestry Emphasis M.S. program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAT_R 8300</td>
<td>Urban Biodiversity, Conservation, and Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREST 8515</td>
<td>Advanced Forest Biometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOCHM 8120</td>
<td>Advanced Medicinal Plant Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREST 9087</td>
<td>Seminar in Forestry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOCHM 8130</td>
<td>Commercial Use of Biodiversity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG_ED_LD 8087</td>
<td>Seminar in Agricultural Education and Leadership</td>
<td>1-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG_ED_LD 8510</td>
<td>Research Methods and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG_ED_LD 8250</td>
<td>Leadership Theory and Application</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG_ED_LD 8540</td>
<td>Methods of Qualitative Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Socio-economic Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREST 8395</td>
<td>Agroforestry Economics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAT_R 8300 Urban Biodiversity, Conservation, and Planning
FOREST 8515 Advanced Forest Biometrics
BIOCHM 8120 Advanced Medicinal Plant Science
FOREST 9087 Seminar in Forestry
BIOCHM 8130 Commercial Use of Biodiversity
AG_ED_LD 8087 Seminar in Agricultural Education and Leadership
AG_ED_LD 8510 Research Methods and Design
AG_ED_LD 8250 Leadership Theory and Application
AG_ED_LD 8540 Methods of Qualitative Research

Thesis option:

Students in the thesis option will complete 30 credit hours of course work with no more than 12 credits for a thesis. Students choosing the M.S. thesis option will prepare a written research proposal and make an oral defense of that proposal within 12 months of their initial enrollment in the program. Students in the thesis option will write a thesis based on their research and participate in a public oral defense of their thesis announced at least two weeks prior to the defense date.

Non-Thesis option:

Students in the non-thesis option will complete 30 credit hours of course work with no more than 6 credits for a project. Students choosing the non-thesis option will be required to write a project plan and to make an oral defense of that plan within the first year following their initial enrollment in the program. Students choosing the non-thesis option will write a technical report based on their project and participate in a public oral defense of their report to be announced at least two weeks prior to the defense.

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The GRE requirement may be waived under exceptional circumstances. Applicants will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

How to Apply

To the Graduate School:

- All application materials must be submitted to the Apply Yourself (https://applygrad.missouri.edu/apply) online application system.
- Statement of interest
- Résumé or CV
- GRE scores
- TOEFL scores (if applicable)
- A minimum of three letters of recommendation and the accompanying evaluation sheets from people who can attest to the candidate’s scholastic ability and experience relevant to graduate study.
- Publications (optional)

Application Deadlines

Applications must be received by the following dates:

- March 15 for the summer semester
- May 15 for the fall semester
- Oct. 15 for the spring semester