PhD in Natural Resources with Emphasis in Forestry

Admission Contact Information
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Doctoral in Forestry

The PhD degree in forestry is designed to prepare students for academic careers in research and teaching or other advanced scientific or professional careers. Students entering the PhD program will often have a master’s degree, but this is not an absolute requirement.

PhD candidates conduct original research under the supervision of a faculty advisor or advisors and with the participation of a doctoral committee. Students are expected to engage in coursework to prepare for careers in research, industry or academia. The Department of Forestry expects students to take part in professional and educational activities by giving presentations at conferences and presenting seminars. Ph.D. candidates complete a dissertation and are expected to publish their research results in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Admission Criteria

Fall deadline: May 15
Spring deadline: October 15
Summer deadline: March 15

- Minimum GPA: 3.0 in last 60 hours
- Minimum TOEFL scores (iBT:80)
- Minimum GRE scores: none

Particular attention is given to the record of the last 2 years of undergraduate study, and/or the type and quality of professional experience since completion of the undergraduate degree. Doctoral candidates must demonstrate a higher level of achievement in each of these criteria.

Required Application Materials

To the Graduate School:
- All required Graduate School documents
- 3 letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to evaluate scholarly capacity and professional qualities
- Letter of intent

To Forestry Emphasis Area:
- Emphasis area application (use form)

Doctoral Committee in Forestry

The student pursuing the doctoral program is expected to pass qualifying, comprehensive and final examinations administered by the student’s doctoral committee. This committee is structured as defined by the MU Graduate School and must have a minimum of 4 members, at least 3 members must be from the student’s doctoral degree program and 1 outside member from a different MU program. The Forestry Department strongly recommends a 5-person committee for Ph.D. students. At least 2 of the committee members must be MU doctoral faculty.

Doctoral Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination determines whether the student’s background is adequate to enter the PhD program. It also is intended to ascertain if there are areas of weakness in which a candidate will be required to gain background through appropriate course work or areas that prohibit entry into the program.

D-1 Qualifying Examination Results and Doctoral Committee Approval Form

Submission of the D-1 form follows a meeting of the student’s graduate committee and approval by the committee, of the student’s proposal and plan of research and coursework. This form is to be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies within one month of exam completion.

D-2 Plan of Study

The D-2 form accompanies the D-1, and is also to be submitted to the MU Office of Graduate Studies within one month of exam completion.

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination

Comprehensive exam must be take a minimum 6 months before dissertation defense. The objectives of the comprehensive examination are twofold:
1. to determine if a student has acquired sufficient depth and breadth of knowledge in selected areas of concentration
2. to evaluate the candidate’s capacity to apply that knowledge in solving applied or theoretical problems.

D-3 Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Result Form

The D-3 forms should be completed and filed with the Office of Graduate Studies within one month of exam completion.

Final Examination

The final examination is directed primarily toward exploration of the dissertation research project. The final examination is directed primarily toward exploration of the dissertation research project. An independent scholarly dissertation approved by the student’s advisor and doctoral committee must be completed. The announcement of public seminar for the dissertation defense must be made at least two weeks in advance of the seminar. It must be well advertised and open to the public. Every candidate should review the Dissertation & Thesis Guidelines (http://gradschool.missouri.edu/academics/thesis-dissertation/diss-thesis-guideline) from the Graduate School and should consult the Director of Graduate Studies for academic program style requirements.

D-4 Report of the Dissertation Defense Form

The D-4 form should be completed and filed with the Office of Graduate Studies as soon as possible after the defense.

Dissertation

An independent scholarly dissertation approved by the student’s advisor and doctoral committee must be completed.

Foreign Language Requirements

Requirements for foreign language and a collateral field, if any, are determined by the student’s doctoral committee. The doctoral committee
is expected to make an assessment of the student's needs as they relate to the student's background and educational objectives.