



School of Natural Resources

M.S. Specialization in Wildlife Ecology

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The specialization in Wildlife Ecology promotes an understanding of the ecological aspects of wildlife and their habitats. Students gain an advanced knowledge of wildlife sciences. This specialization fosters interactions and cooperation among the community of scientists and students conducting research on conservation and management of natural resources.

RESOURCES/FACILITIES

The School of Natural Resources is housed in the newly renovated Hardin Hall on UNL's beautiful East Campus. The new building has excellent wet labs, GIS/computer labs, office and classroom facilities to support research, teaching and outreach regarding natural resources. In addition, it offers field or lab study at:

Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory
Agricultural Research Division field
laboratories at five district sites in the
state
Barta Brothers Ranch (north-central
Nebraska)
Cedar Point Biological Station (summer study
near Lake McConaughy)

Center for Advanced Land Management
Information technologies (CALMIT)
Division of Zoology, University of Nebraska
State Museum
Additional opportunities with other centers
and closely affiliated units and
agencies

PARTICIPATING FACULTY

Craig Allen	Invasive Species / Landscape Ecology
Patricia Freeman	Mammalian Morphology and Biodiversity
Scott Hygnstrom	Wildlife Ecology / Wildlife Damage Management
Ron Johnson	Wildlife Biology / Avian Ecology
Larkin Powell	Wildlife Population Ecology / Conservation Biology
Andrew Tyre	Wildlife Population Ecology / Population Modeling
David Wedin	Grassland and Forest Ecology

COURSE EXAMPLES

Advanced Topics in Wildlife Damage Management	Area Wilderness Ecology
Animal Behavior	Community Ecology
Biology of Wildlife	Field Course
Populations	Ecological Statistics
Boundary Waters Canoe	Fisheries Science
	Herpetology

Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
Invasive Species
Landscape Ecology
Mathematical Models in Biology
Mammalogy

Ornithology
Parameter Estimation
Tropical Ecology Field Course
Waterfowl Ecology and Management
Wildlife Disease

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All potential SNR M.S. graduate students must meet the following minimum requirements or provide the requested information:

- A bachelors degree with a background that includes at least one course in each of the following disciplines with a minimum of eight courses total:
 - Mathematics (must include one semester of Calculus)
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Life Sciences (Agronomy, Biology, Ecology, Forestry, Wetlands, etc.)
 - Earth Sciences (Geology, Meteorology, Oceanography, Soils, etc.)
- GRE scores of 500 verbal, 620 quantitative, and 4.0 analytical writing
- TOEFL score of 600 paper-, 300 computer- or 79 web-based (applies only to international applicants for whom English is not the first language)
- GPA of 3.0 (on a 4-point system)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose

In addition to these minimum admission requirements, the student must have at least 16 hours of wildlife-related courses, including a course in ecology. The chair of the student's supervisory committee must be a faculty member in SNR (includes adjunct and courtesy) and the thesis research topic must be in wildlife ecology.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities are available through academic institutions, state and federal agencies, and the private sector. Previous graduates have found careers in wildlife ecology and management, conservation biology, consulting, communications, research, and teaching.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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“My research with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Wildlife Ecology program has provided me with valuable field experience, such as radio telemetry and GIS, preparing me for my future career.”

– Jason Gilsdorf, M.S.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.