DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCES

Overview

wfsc.tamu.edu

Head: David Caldwell

Graduate Advisor: L. Hutchins

Graduate programs of study and research lead to the MS and PhD degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. These programs prepare students for careers with academic institutions, governmental agencies and private business/industry. Studies in environmental conservation and education are available to those students interested in preparing themselves for public service in a number of fields other than research and management. The non-thesis Master of Wildlife Science and Master of Natural Resource Development degree programs are designed to give students broad academic training combined with practical experience, to develop problem-solving and management skills. The MS (thesis option) and PhD degrees require a strong background in the basic and applied agricultural and life sciences, particularly as they relate to whole-organism biological systems. The latter two degrees involve intensive research, and the resulting thesis or dissertation must demonstrate a superior knowledge and understanding of the subject area.

Graduate study in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences normally requires some breadth in several disciplines, which differ among courses of study and are dependent on candidate background. The academic program of study is tailored to the background and educational goals of each degree candidate in consultation with his or her Graduate Advisory Committee. There are no foreign language requirements for any of the department’s graduate degree programs, unless set by the student’s Advisory Committee or the University.

Research activities in the department involve vertebrates, invertebrates, plants and natural-resource systems, and span the broad fields of wildlife ecology and management, fisheries ecology and management, aquaculture, biodiversity and systematics, conservation education/museum science and the human dimensions of wildlife and fisheries resource management. Research in these fields is supported by disciplinary expertise in aut- and synecology, evolutionary biology, resource sociology, animal behavior, physiology, animal diseases and parasitology, bioenergetics, nutrition, genetics, and systems analysis and modeling. Although much of the research program is without geographic bounds, the more site-specific aspects of the program focus on Texas, Mexico and the neotropics.

Facilities for research and graduate education include over forty laboratories with modern and sophisticated scientific instrumentation; an NSF-sponsored Center for Biosystematics and Biodiversity; the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections, which is among the largest collections of animals and genetic tissues in the New World; the Marine Mammal Research Facilities at Galveston; and an Aquacultural Research and Teaching Facility (laboratory and ponds) devoted to study of fish and invertebrate production for food and sport fishing. Field studies may be conducted at the Texas A&M University System’s off-campus research and extension centers. Texas A&M is a member of the Archbold Tropical Research Center on the Caribbean island of Dominica.

Graduate students are eligible to apply for usage of laboratory and field facilities at both of these locations.

Some faculty members in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences have appointments on the intercollegiate faculties of Genetics, Ecology, Nutrition and Toxicology; graduate students are eligible to seek degrees in those areas. The department also encourages interdisciplinary research efforts with other departments, and within the Institutes of Marine Life Sciences and Renewable Natural Resources.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences has a residency requirement for all MS and PhD students. Master of Science students must complete, on the campus at College Station, 9 credit hours during one semester. Students who enter the doctoral degree programs with baccalaureate degrees must spend four semesters, of 9 hours each, on the campus at College Station. Students who hold master’s degrees when they enter doctoral degree programs must spend two semesters, of 9 hours each, in resident study on the campus. A semester may be fall, spring, a 10-week summer semester, or two 5-week summer terms. Full-time staff members of the University or of closely affiliated organizations stationed on the campus at College Station may fulfill residency requirements by completion of less-than-full course loads. Any exception to these rules must be approved in writing by the department head and the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Masters

- Master of Natural Resources Development in Natural Resources Development (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/wildlife-fisheries-sciences/mnrd)
- Master of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/wildlife-fisheries-sciences/ms)

Doctoral

- Doctor of Philosophy in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/wildlife-fisheries-sciences/phd)

Certificates


Faculty

Barboza, Peregrine S, Professor
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
PHD, University of New England, 1991

Bixler, Richard P, Lecturer
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
PHD, Colorado State University, 2014

Conway, Kevin W, Associate Professor
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
PHD, Sain Louis University, 2010
Dewitt, Thomas J, Associate Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, State University of New York - Binghamton, 1996

Dronen Jr, Norman O, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, New Mexico State University, 1974

Fitzgerald, Lee A, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, University of New Mexico, 1993

Fujiwara, Masami, Associate Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Massachusetts Inst of Technology, 2002

Gatlin III, Delbert M, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Mississippi State University, 1983

Grace, Jacquelyn K, Assistant Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Wake Forest University, 2014

Grant, William E, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Colorado State University, 1974

Hibbitts, Toby J, Lecturer  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, University of the Witwatersrand, 2006

Hurtado Clavijo, Luis A, Associate Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Rutgers, 2002

Lacher Jr, Thomas E, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, University of Pittsburgh, 1980

Light, Jessica E, Associate Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Louisiana State University, 2005

Mateos, Mariana, Associate Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Rutgers, 2002

Mora-Zacarias, Miguel A, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, University of California, Davis, 1990

Morrison, Mike L, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Oregon State University, 1982

Perkin, Joshuah S, Assistant Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Kansas State University, 2012

Roelke, Daniel L, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1997

Silvy, Nova J, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, Southern Illinois University, 1975

Voelker, Gary A, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, University of Washington, 1998

Winemiller, Kirk O, Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, University of Texas, 1987

Yorzinski, Jessica L, Assistant Professor  
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
PHD, University of California Davis, 2012