# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

The program involves intense laboratory or field-conducted research, coupled with rigorous scholarly contemplation of ecological, evolutionary and genetic/genomic principles.

## Additional Requirements

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- Continuous Registration (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/ecology-evolutionary-biology-phd/#continuous-registration)
- Residence (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/ecology-evolutionary-biology-phd/#residence)
- Scholastic Requirements (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/ecology-evolutionary-biology-phd/#scholastic-requirements)
- Professional Internship or Practicum (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/ecology-evolutionary-biology-phd/#internship)
- Foreign Languages (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/ecology-evolutionary-biology-phd/#languages)
- Time Limits (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/ecology-evolutionary-biology-phd/#time-limit)
- 99-Hour and 7-Year Cap on Doctoral Degree (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/ecology-evolutionary-biology-phd/#hour-cap)
- Graduation (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/interdisciplinary/ecology-evolutionary-biology-phd/#graduation)

### Continuous Registration

Students in graduate degree programs requiring a thesis, dissertation, internship, or record of study and who have completed all coursework on an approved degree plan – other than 684 (Internship), 691/791 (Research) or 692 (Professional Study) – are required to maintain continuous registration until the completion of all requirements for a degree. Registration for zero-credit courses does not satisfy the Continuous Registration Requirement. For more information, please see Continuous Registration Requirements under the Registration and Academic Status (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#registrationandacademicstatustext) tab on the Academic Expectations and Program Requirements page in the Graduate and Professional Catalog.

### Residence

A major purpose of the Residence Requirement for graduate degrees is to ensure that students have an opportunity to benefit from the advantages of a university environment.

To satisfy the Residence Requirement, doctoral students must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester or 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University for the required period.

Students who enter a doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree must spend one academic year plus one semester in resident study. These students may fulfill the Residence Requirement in excess of one academic year (18 semester credit hours) by registering during summer sessions, or by completion of a less-than-full course load (in this context, a full course load is considered 9 credit hours per semester).

Students who hold a master's degree when they enter a doctoral degree program must spend one academic year in resident study. One academic year may include two adjacent regular semesters, or one regular semester and one adjacent 10-week summer semester. A third semester is not required to be adjacent to the one year. Enrollment for each semester must be a minimum of 9 semester credit hours each to satisfy the Residence Requirement.

A minimum of 1 semester credit hour must be in a non-distance education delivery mode. Semesters in which the student is enrolled in all distance education coursework will not count toward fulfillment of the Residence Requirement.

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill the total Residence Requirement by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. To be eligible, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions through the Document Processing Submission System (DPSS) along with verification of employment to the Graduate and Professional School. Verification of employment should be provided when a degree plan is submitted.

For more information, please see the Residence Requirements section under the Degree Requirements (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext) tab on the Academic Expectations and Program Requirements page in the Graduate and Professional Catalog.

### Scholastic Requirements

Students in graduate degree programs must maintain good academic standing and meet minimum university scholastic requirements throughout the duration of their graduate studies. Academic units may have additional or higher requirements. For more information, please see the Scholastic Requirements section under the Academic Expectations (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/) tab on the Academic Expectations and Program Requirements page in the Graduate

### Professional Internship or Practicum

Internship or practicum requirements for graduate programs at Texas A&M University are administered and monitored by the individual academic units overseeing graduate studies. For more information, please see the Professional Internship, Practicum, or Licensing section under the Degree Requirements tab on the Academic Expectations and Program Requirements page in the Graduate and Professional Catalog.

### Foreign Languages

Foreign language requirements for graduate programs are administered and monitored by the individual academic units overseeing graduate studies. The doctoral foreign language requirement is a departmental option, to be administered and monitored by administrators of the program's academic instruction.

## Time Limits

All requirements for doctoral degree programs must be completed within a period of ten consecutive calendar years for the degree to be granted.

A course will be considered valid until ten (10) years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Students must complete a Final Examination within four (4) years of the semester in which a Preliminary Examination was taken. Students in doctoral degree programs must have a final corrected version of the dissertation manuscript cleared by the Graduate and Professional School within one (1) year of the semester in which a Final Examination was taken. Failure to do so will result in the degree not being awarded.

For more information, please see the Time Limits section under the Degree Requirements (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext) tab on the Academic Expectations and Program Requirements page in the Graduate and Professional Catalog.

## 99-Hour and 7-Year Cap on Doctoral Degrees

In Texas, public colleges and universities are funded by the state according to the number of students enrolled. In accordance with legislation passed by the Texas Legislature, the number of hours for which state universities may receive subvention funding at the doctoral rate for any individual is limited to 99 hours. Texas A&M and other universities will not receive subvention for hours in excess of the limit.

Institutions of higher education are allowed to charge the equivalent of non-resident tuition to a resident doctoral student who has enrolled in 100 or more semester credit hours of doctoral coursework.

Doctoral students at Texas A&M have seven years to complete their degree before being charged out-of-state tuition. A doctoral student who, after seven years of study, has accumulated 100 or more doctoral hours will be charged tuition at a rate equivalent to out-of-state tuition. Please note that the tuition increases will apply to Texas residents as well as students from other states and countries who are currently charged tuition at the resident rate. This includes those doctoral students who hold GAT, GANT and GAR appointments or recipients of competitive fellowships who receive more than $1,000 per semester. Doctoral students who have not accumulated 100 hours after seven years of study are eligible to pay in-state tuition if otherwise eligible.

Doctoral students who exceed the credit limit will receive notification from the Graduate and Professional School during the semester in which they are enrolled and exceeding the limit in their current degree program. The notification will explain that the State of Texas does not provide funding for any additional hours in which a student is enrolled in excess of 99 hours. Texas A&M University will recover the lost funds by requiring students in excess of 99 hours to pay tuition at the non-funded, non-resident rate. This non-funded, non-resident tuition rate status will be updated for the following semester and in all subsequent semesters until receipt of a doctoral degree. Please see the Tuition Calculator (https://tuition.tamu.edu/) at the non-resident rate for an example of potential charges.

The following majors are exempt from the 99-Hour Cap on Doctoral Degrees and have a limit of 130 doctoral hours:

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
- Biomedical Sciences
- Clinical Psychology
- Counseling Psychology
- Genetics and Genomics
- Health Services Research
- Medical Sciences
- Microbiology
- Neurosciences (College of Medicine)
- Nutrition
- Oral and Craniofacial Biomedical Sciences
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Public Health Sciences
- School Psychology
- Toxicology

## Graduation

Candidates for an advanced degree who expect to complete their work at the end of a given semester may apply for graduation. For more information, please see the Graduation section under the Degree Requirements (https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext) tab on the Academic Expectations and Program Requirements page in the Graduate and Professional Catalog.