The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology offers graduate education and training in a number of areas leading to the master of science and/or the doctor of philosophy in forestry or wildlife ecology. The program takes pride in its outstanding research reputation and the success of graduates working throughout the world. The wildlife ecology program was founded by Aldo Leopold in 1939, and has maintained his vision and legacy of excellence in current research and graduate training activities. Leopold’s career spanned two professions, forestry and wildlife conservation, so the program strives to maintain excellence in both fields.

Master’s and doctoral work in forestry is offered in the following areas: forest ecology, silviculture, forest ecosystem analysis and management, landscape ecology and planning, forest stand dynamics, forest restoration ecology, tree physiology, remote sensing of forests and natural resources, natural resource policy, social forestry, forest management, ecosystem services, and economics of forests and natural resources.

**Requirements**

### Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress

To make progress toward a graduate degree, students must meet the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext) in addition to the requirements of the program.

**Master’s Degrees**

**M.S.**

**Minimum Graduate Degree Credit Requirement**

30 credits

**Minimum Graduate Residence Credit Requirement**

16 credits

**Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement**

At least 50% of credits applied toward the graduate degree credit requirement must be completed in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).

**Prior Coursework Requirements: Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

With M.S. committee approval and academic affairs committee approval, students are allowed to count no more than 14 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**Prior Coursework Requirements: UW–Madison Undergraduate**

Students may count up to 7 credits of coursework numbered 300 level or above upon approval of the M.S. committee and the academic affairs committee. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**Prior Coursework Requirements: UW–Madison University Special**

With M.S. committee approval and academic affairs committee approval, students are allowed to count no more than 15 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**Credits Per Term Allowed**

15 credits

**Program-Specific Courses Required**

Contact the program for information on any additional required courses.

**Overall Graduate GPA Requirement**

3.00

**Other Grade Requirements**

The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

**Probation Policy**

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

**Advisor / Committee**

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

**Assessment and Examinations**

Contact the program for information on required assessments and examinations.

**Time Constraints**

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students...
completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**
Contact the program for information on any language requirements.

**ADMISSIONS**
The equivalent of a bachelor's degree in forestry, wildlife ecology, or a related field is required for admission with full standing to pursue graduate studies in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Students with undergraduate work in other fields may be admitted with deficiencies; these deficiencies must be removed during the first year of graduate study. Academic requirements for admission are those of the Graduate School and the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology; Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores are required.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**
- Articulates, critiques, and elaborates the theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry in the field of forest science.
- Identifies sources and assembles evidence pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of forest science.
- Demonstrates understanding of the field of forest science in a historical, social, and global context.
- Evaluates and synthesizes information pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of forest science.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**
- Selects and utilizes the most appropriate methodologies and practices.
- Communicates clearly in ways appropriate to the field of forest science.

**PEOPLE**

**Faculty:** Professors Rickenbach (chair), Bowe, Clayton, Kruger, Lindroth, Mladenoff, Radeloff, Raffa, Stanosz, Townsend; Associate Professor Balster, Marin-Spiotta, Ozdogan, Pidgeon, Rissman; Assistant Professors Alix-Garcia, Johnston