Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology

The degrees are offered through the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology program, an intercollegiate program administered by the Colleges of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine. Students are affiliated with the department of their major professor. The degrees emphasize habitat assessment, population biology, human dimensions, environmental policy, animal health, and sustainable management of fish and wildlife species.

Admissions Requirements

Application for admission is made directly to the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology program. Minimum requirements include an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 in an appropriate biological discipline. Completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is optional, depending on the requirements of individual faculty. Admission is competitive and is contingent on the willingness of a member of the faculty to serve as the major professor. Exceptions to minimum requirements may be made for students with special backgrounds.

Master’s Degree Requirements

The M.S. degree program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, including 1-2 hours of seminar and no more than six hours of research. A research-based thesis is required, as is a minor (usually 9-10 hours). The Master of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology degree requires a minimum of 36 credits (including 4-6 hours of special problems and 1-2 hours of seminars), a professional paper, a committee and final exam. For either degree, further requirements may be imposed by the advisory committee and/or department.

Doctoral Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. program requires 36 to 54 credits of course work beyond the Master’s degree, including two seminars and an ethics course, and a dissertation. Exceptionally well-prepared students may petition to have their degree objective changed to Ph.D. before completing the Master’s degree.

Student Financial Support

Graduate research and teaching assistantships are offered for qualified students through participating departments. Commitments for assistantships are normally made at the time of admission to graduate study.

Other Relevant Information

Research near campus is facilitated by excellent field, laboratory and computer resources. Off-campus research is conducted at the Pamlico Aquaculture Field Laboratory, research and extension centers in eastern and western NC, The Center for Marine Sciences and Technology in Morehead City, Bull Neck Swamp, Hill Forest, and at facilities of state and federal agencies and private organizations.
Ann Helen Ross
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Clyde E. Sorenson
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Associate Professors
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Practice/Research/Teaching Professors
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Roland Wesley Kays
Lara B. Pacifici
Martha Burford Reiskind
Kara Kristina Walker