

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Learning Outcomes

Professional Science Masters in Fisheries and Wildlife Administration (PSMFWA)

The PSMFWA degree is an integrated curriculum designed to provide advanced, professional training in four areas: (1) core knowledge in fish or wildlife biology, ecology and management; (2) natural resources policy; (3) human dimensions of natural resources management; and (4) professional skills and abilities. In addition, each student will participate in an intensive internship experience engaging students in real world work situations involving technical problems, teamwork, communication skills, and decision-making. Specific learning outcomes for the each of the major components of the PSMFWA degree are listed below.

Biophysical Sciences

Through their chosen coursework, Graduates of the PSMFWA will have an in-depth understanding of:

- complex interrelationships among biological, physical, and human components of ecosystems;
- spatial and temporal variation in ecosystem structure and processes;
- application of ecosystem principles in development and implementation of holistic, synthetic approaches to management;
- information requirements to support application of conservation principles and develop approaches for specific ecosystems or specific organisms within these ecosystems; and
- application of quantitative tools for evaluation of scientific data and tools to assess the status and future of natural resources.

Social Sciences

Through their chosen coursework, Graduates of the PSMFWA will be able to:

- identify interactions between human ecology and nature;
- incorporate social information (e.g., demographics, environmental policy, economic systems) in development of conservation plans and natural resource decision making;
- understand fundamental operations and assumptions of human institutions, including politics, economics, culture, history and social/value systems; and
- understand how natural resources are affected by actions dependent on human philosophy, ethics, world views, religion, and psychology.

Professional Skills and Abilities

Through their chosen coursework and Internship Project, Graduates of the PSMFWA will have an understanding of:

- concepts in communications, group organization, and conflict resolution in fisheries and wildlife management;
- library research skills and effective written communication;
- the effectiveness of agency or organization structure and project management;
- ethical issues in scientific and social settings; and
- how to apply scientific knowledge in a variety of settings and by working as part of a multidisciplinary team.