AQUATIC RESOURCES M.S.

“I like the opportunities made available through field and lab work and the support given by faculty and staff in professional advice, scholarships and available equipment; all of these allow each student to succeed to their potential. For the caliber of faculty, the location of campus, and the resources allotted, Texas State cannot be beat. The people I’ve met and worked with here will better prepare me for my career in aquatic resources.”

— Zach Shattuck AQUATIC RESOURCES MASTER’S STUDENT

Texas State University is located near many aquatic ecosystems, including rivers, lakes and groundwater, which provide exceptional opportunities for study and research in aquatic biology and aquatic resources. The university acquired San Marcos Springs in 1994, converting it from an amusement park site to a research and education center and giving Texas State stewardship of a unique aquatic ecosystem.

The source of the springs is the Edwards Aquifer, one of the most prolific karst aquifers in the world. Other aquatic entities at San Marcos Springs include the Department of Biology’s Wetlands Restoration Project and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, a state-funded research and education facility dedicated to aquatic issues.

The San Marcos River originates from San Marcos Springs and flows through a park on the Texas State campus. With its clear water and constant temperature, the river provides a unique biological laboratory containing numerous endemic species.
Course Work
The Department of Biology at Texas State offers a master of science with a major in aquatic resources, a thesis-based degree that requires a minimum of 31 semester hours of course work.

Students can select one of two areas of concentration: aquatic biology or aquatic systems. Students in the aquatic biology concentration focus on the biology and ecology of aquatic organisms and the dynamics and management of aquatic ecosystems. Students in the aquatic systems concentration focus on an understanding of the structure and functioning of aquatic systems as integrated physical, biological and socioeconomic entities. The program emphasizes practices aimed at protecting, maintaining and restoring the health and sustainable use of these resources.

Facilities
The 30,000-square-foot Freeman Aquatic Biology Building overlooks experimental ponds and the San Marcos River and is devoted entirely to teaching and research. It contains laboratories, a wet lab and an array of instruments for aquatic studies. The wet lab is equipped with holding troughs, artificial stream systems and aquaria for laboratory studies. Artesian well water from the Edwards Aquifer is continuously supplied to the wet lab and bioassay lab, ensuring a constant supply of high-quality water for research.

Admission Policy
Applicants should have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university in biology or a related discipline with a comparable program of course work.

The Department of Biology requires students to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours taken before receipt of the bachelor's degree. Students with a GPA below 3.0 may petition the department for conditional admission. Well-qualified applicants should score in at least the 50th percentile on both the verbal and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Each applicant must submit the following to the Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each college or university attended
- official GRE scores
- current curriculum vitae
- statement of purpose that describes the applicant's professional aspirations and rationale for pursuing graduate study in biology
- three letters of recommendation
- an Intent-to-Mentor letter from a Department of Biology faculty member that states the faculty member's agreement to serve as the student's thesis advisor

Financial Assistance
Assistantships and scholarships are available to qualified applicants on a competitive basis. The Department of Biology offers a limited number of graduate instructional assistantships to full-time students enrolled in master's programs. These assistantships are renewable based on an annual review of each student's progress and performance. Faculty members may also have funds available to support students as research assistants. Support is normally limited to two years.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
Dr. Weston Nowlin
Graduate Advisor
Department of Biology
Aquatic Station
Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666-4684
Phone: 512.245.2284
Fax: 512.245.7919
E-mail: wn11@txstate.edu