“The doctoral program in aquatic resources at Texas State offers top-rate faculty willing to devote time and resources to students’ success. The setting at the headwaters of the San Marcos River, scientific development through research and collaboration, and the outstanding faculty and students all put Texas State at the forefront of water resources science, management and policy in Texas and internationally.”

— Heidi L.N. Moltz AQUATIC RESOURCES DOCTORAL GRADUATE

Freshwater resources are critical for human survival and economic development, as well as for maintaining ecosystem health. Water scarcity also threatens food supplies and human health. To address this increasingly serious problem, aquatic resources scientists link and integrate scientific, technical and socioeconomic elements in pursuit of sustainable aquatic resources in Texas, across the nation and around the world.

The Department of Biology at Texas State University offers a doctorate (Ph.D.) in aquatic resources. With an emphasis on original research, the program is designed to provide depth and breadth of knowledge in aquatic resources and related disciplines, from the watershed to the population, organismal and microbial scale, including basic and applied research, and water systems management and policy.

Students learn the application of this research and knowledge, both independently and with other specialists, in a multidisciplinary environment. Graduates are prepared to identify and solve complex problems and issues relevant to the sustainable use of aquatic resources and ecosystems.
Course Work
The curriculum stresses active roles for students in intellectual exchange with both faculty and peers and in the critique of published research. The program also facilitates the entry of its students into the professional community of scholars and water system practitioners in a manner emphasizing the completion, presentation and publication of original, creative research.

Students entering the doctoral program with an earned master’s degree in an appropriate field must complete 60 hours of graduate course work, including 20 hours of core courses and 40 hours of additional course work and/or dissertation research (a minimum of 15 hours of dissertation).

Each doctoral student has a research and study program designed to meet the student’s academic goals, including core skills the student wants to develop. The program also includes a mix of elective courses to provide the scientific expertise and knowledge required to work on complex problems focused on the sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and their resources.

Facilities
Texas State is located near many aquatic ecosystems that provide students with a unique opportunity for study and research. The San Marcos River, which flows through the university campus, is fed by San Marcos Springs, a critical habitat for eight threatened or endangered species.

The campus also is home to The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment’s wetlands restoration project at Spring Lake, which develops and promotes programs and techniques directed to ensuring sustainable water resources, and the Aquarena Center, a research and education center. The 30,000-square-foot Freeman Aquatic Biology Building, which houses the aquatic resources program, overlooks experimental ponds and the San Marcos River and is home to the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center.

Admission Policy
Admission to the aquatic resources doctoral program requires an earned master’s degree in biology, chemistry, engineering, geology or related natural science field. Applicants must have a GPA of at least 3.25 on all completed graduate work and must have taken the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) within the last five years. Applicants also must submit evidence of scholarly research and writing, as well as a statement of purpose.

Exceptional students with bachelor’s degrees or the equivalent in the above disciplines and students with graduate backgrounds in other disciplines will also be considered on a case-by-case basis. For students holding a bachelor’s degree, a GPA of at least 3.5 on all completed undergraduate work is required.

Prior to submitting an application, a prospective student must contact members of the doctoral faculty to identify an individual willing to serve as the student’s major advisor. An overview of the Aquatic Resources Program, including a list of faculty and their research areas, is available at www.aquaticresources.bio.txstate.edu.

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 Graduate Record Exam (GRE). See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/aqrp for details about GRE requirements.
• current curriculum vitae that describes professional aspirations and rationale for pursuing a doctoral degree in Aquatic Resources
• statement of purpose that describes professional aspirations and rationale for pursuing a doctoral degree in aquatic resources
• three letters of recommendation
• Intent-to-Mentor letter (must be sent directly from a faculty member within the Department of Biology who has agreed to serve as the student’s supervising professor)

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to submit application documents and additional details. Applications are due January 15 for the fall semester and August 15 for the spring semester.

Financial Assistance
Graduate students are encouraged to apply for competitive instructional and research assistantships. The stipend at the doctoral level is approximately $25,000 per nine-month appointment, including associated medical and other benefits. Graduate assistants pay resident tuition and fees.

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.

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