Students learn to conduct scientific studies to address contemporary problems and increase knowledge in the field of wildlife ecology.
Why choose Texas State?

The master’s program in wildlife ecology at Texas State University has a long history of cooperation with agencies such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and nongovernmental organizations, providing students with access to contemporary wildlife research and potential employment opportunities.

Students can take advantage of the excellent research opportunity to study wildlife in Texas and beyond due to the worldwide reach of Texas State faculty research.

Course Work

The master of science in wildlife ecology is a thesis-based degree with an emphasis on the application of ecological principles to studies in the fields of wildlife ecology and natural resource management. The degree requires a minimum of 30 credit hours including core courses in statistics and experimental design, elective courses in the student’s area of interest, seminars and thesis courses. Research options include but are not limited to the following:

» large mammal behavior, ecology and genetics
» threatened and endangered species ecology and conservation
» ecology of turtles
» toad biology
» bat ecology
» disease ecology
» population sampling and estimation
» population persistence and viability
» community ecology
Department Mission

Wildlife ecology, as an area of study and concern, has grown in the U.S. and Texas over the last 50 years to play a major role in developing decisions on land and water use, wildlife populations and recreation. Wildlife issues are no longer confined to hunting, fishing and agricultural pursuits, but also encompass much larger issues in energy sources, urban and suburban development, overpopulation of some species, threatened and endangered species, water use and availability and coastal development, among others. Nowhere is this more pronounced than in Central Texas. The Wildlife Ecology program aims to find solutions to these issues.
Faculty
The research interests of the wildlife faculty are diverse, spanning such fields as disease ecology, genetics and systematics, landscape ecology, vertebrate population ecology and management, parasitology, resource selection, estimating demography and abundance of populations. Many studies are conducted on terrestrial vertebrates: mammals, birds and herps. Some faculty study invertebrate and aquatic vertebrate species that are species of concern or listed as threatened or endangered.

Career Options
Graduates of the M.S. degree have pursued doctoral degrees or obtained employment in a variety of professions. Examples include employment as biologists with state and federal resource agencies, nongovernmental agencies and environmental consulting firms. Graduates have also pursued careers in education as high school biology teachers or instructors at community colleges.
Important Deadlines*

Admissions
Priority Fall: February 1
Fall: June 15
Spring: October 15
Summer: April 15

Applications will continue to be considered on a space-available basis after the deadline.

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/wildlife-ecology
Pursuing a master’s degree in Wildlife Ecology at Texas State University introduced me to the diversity of career and research opportunities available to wildlife professionals and allowed me to be successful and have an impact while doing what I love.

– Sara Weaver, M.S. ’12 and current Aquatic Resources Ph.D. student at Texas State

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