Wildlife issues are no longer confined to hunting, fishing and agricultural pursuits, but rather encompass much larger issues pertaining to energy sources, urban and suburban development, overpopulation of some species, threatened and endangered species, water use and availability, and coastal development. Nowhere are these issues more pronounced than in Central Texas.

During the last 50 years, the field of wildlife ecology has grown to play a major role in decisions concerning land and water use. Resource managers strive to strike a balance between wildlife populations and human needs.

As opportunities for students trained in wildlife ecology continue to increase, the field is becoming increasingly competitive and demanding. The master of science in wildlife ecology has become the recognized degree required for employment by many private, state and federal entities.

The master’s program in wildlife ecology at Texas State University has a long history of interagency cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, enabling students to stay on the cutting edge of wildlife 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 semester hours of course work including:

- two semesters of statistics and experimental design (BIO 7405, 7406)
- three, one-hour seminars — BIO 5110 or BIO 5295 and two one-hour seminars
- two semesters of thesis (BIO 5399A/B) course work
- minimum of 13 additional hours of graduate-level courses in the student's area of interest

Research Options
Texas State offers students the best opportunity in Texas to study and conduct research at the forefront of wildlife ecology. Six ecological regions of Texas are located within a two-hour drive from campus. Research options include the following:

- white-tailed deer ecology and genetics
- endangered bird species
- ecology of turtles
- toad biology
- bat ecology

Admission Policy
Applicants to any of the master’s programs in biology should have bachelor's degrees in biology or a related discipline with a comparable program of course work.

The Department of Biology requires that a student have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours taken before receipt of the bachelor's degree. Students with GPAs below 3.0 may petition the department for conditional admission.

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, including community colleges
- official Graduate Record Exam (GRE). See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/weco.html for details about the GRE requirements.
- current curriculum vitae

- statement of purpose describing the student’s professional aspirations and rationale for pursuing graduate study in biology
- three letters of recommendation

Applicants for any thesis degree must also provide an “intent to mentor” letter from a Texas State Biology Department faculty member. In this letter, the faculty member must agree to serve as the student's initial thesis advisor.

A current listing of faculty and their research interests, contact information for both graduate advisors and faculty, and details on biology master's programs can be found at www.bio.txstate.edu.

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 also may have funds available to support students as research assistants. Support is traditionally 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.

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