Department Mission

The doctoral program emphasizes original research (including basic and applied) to provide depth and breadth of knowledge in aquatic resources and related disciplines, from the watershed and ecosystem scale down to the population, organismal and microbial scale. Students are engaged in a collaborative research environment among students, faculty, natural resource agencies, nonprofit organizations and public and private interests. The curriculum stresses active roles for students in intellectual exchange with faculty and peers and in the critique of published research. The program prepares students to identify and solve complex problems relevant to the sustainable use of aquatic resources and ecosystems.

The program is inherently interdisciplinary, emphasizing both theoretical and applied approaches to think critically about modern ecological challenges. The broad-based expertise within the department offers students the opportunity to discover and disseminate knowledge on a diverse array of topics across the region and internationally.

– Adam Duarte, Ph.D. ’15, Postdoctoral Research Scholar at Oregon State University

Students will learn to integrate scientific, technical and socioeconomic elements to provide sustainable aquatic resources from local to international levels.

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Why choose Texas State?
Texas State’s location near many aquatic ecosystems, including the San Marcos Springs, the headwaters of the San Marcos River, as well as The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and the Freeman Aquatic Biology Building, provides students with a unique opportunity for study and research.

These local resources give students the ability to study habitats for threatened or endangered species and to develop and promote programs for the sustainable use of aquatic resources and ecosystems.

Course Work
Students entering the doctoral program with an earned master’s degree in an appropriate field must complete 61 hours of graduate course work, which includes 21 hours of core courses and 40 combined hours between elective courses and dissertation research (with a minimum of 15 dissertation hours).

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.

Faculty
The program’s 35 full-time faculty members have established outstanding research programs in molecular/cellular biology, wildlife ecology, population biology, ecology, aquatic resources and science education. Faculty have published in top-tier journals and been supported by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, NASA, as well as various federal and state natural resource management agencies. Through education, scholarship and outreach activities, the department enhances the Texas State image by using the life sciences to help meet current and future needs of society.

Career Options
The program facilitates the entry of its students into the professional community of scholars and natural resource practitioners in a manner emphasizing the completion, presentation and publication of original, creative research.

Among graduating doctoral students, approximately 60 percent go to academia, 15 percent to federal/state agencies, 15 percent to the public sector and 10 percent to the private sector.

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Fall: January 15
Spring: August 15
Summer: No admission

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
For scholarship, fellowship or assistantship information, review our web page: gradcollege.txstate.edu/funding

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

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

For the most up-to-date information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/aquatic-resources-phd