

Forestry MS and PhD Requirements

For students who entered the program prior to Fall 2014

Students who entered starting Fall 2014 or re-entered on or after Fall 2014 will need to follow the requirements as stated on the Forestry Handbook page: <http://www.fwe.wisc.edu/graduate-study-forestry-handbook>

MS Requirements

Enrollment

The department requires all funded students to be enrolled full time. For MS students this means at least 8 credits in the fall and spring term and at least 2 credits in the summer term. Students funded by another department should check with the payroll and benefits coordinator of that department to learn their requirements for enrollment. Unfunded students should follow the [Graduate School's rules on enrollment](#).

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Degree Requirements

Even though the Forestry MS prescribes no specific graduate coursework due to the diversity of research areas available and students select appropriate graduate-level coursework in consultation with their advisor and a graduate advisory committee, there are still some minimum requirements that need to be met by all Forestry MS students. These requirements include

- Completion of **16 graduate-level credits** which
 - must be numbered 300 and above
 - are graded (no pass/fail or audited courses count)
 - can include seminar credits and any Forest and Wildlife Ecology 990 Research and Thesis credits
- **At least 1 credit from a professional development seminar**, in consultation with their committee, students should select at least one course that would develop skills applicable to life after graduate school (examples include teaching, communication, proposal development, presentation skills, mentoring)
- **At least 1 credit from a graduate-level seminar**, in consultation with their committee, students should select at least one course in which participants discuss, critique or apply topics in the literature
- Maintenance of a **3.0 GPA** (minimum)
- Preparation, defense and public presentation of a **thesis**

All Forestry MS students are required to submit their [MS course certification form](#) to the Student Services Coordinator (Sara Rodock). It is recommended that students complete the form by the end of their second semester and it is required that the form be completed before a student can request their graduation warrant. The form can and should be completed before the student has finished your course work. Students are allowed to make changes to their proposed course work.

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Finishing the MS

Early in the semester in which a student intends to graduate they need to submit the [online warrant request form](#). By filling out this form students will be giving the Student Services Coordinator, Sara Rodock, the information necessary for their warrant to be requested from the Graduate School. By requesting the warrant the student will trigger a check of their record by both the department and the Graduate School. The online warrant request form should be filled out four weeks in advance of the defense. For a listing of the Graduate School's requirements for completing the MS degree go to their [Completing Your Degree page](#).

The Forest and Wildlife Ecology department follows the Graduate School's guidelines for thesis formatting. For information on the Graduate School's thesis formatting requirement please visit the [Guide to Preparing Your Master's Thesis](#) website. Please note that all theses deposited at Memorial Library are required to have an advisor approval page that is signed by the advisor. Students can either follow the directions on the Guide to Preparing Your Master's Thesis website or use the [department's template](#).

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PhD Requirements

Enrollment

The department requires all funded students to be enrolled full time. For MS students this means at least 8 credits in the fall and spring term and at least 2 credits in the summer term. Students funded by another department should check with the payroll and benefits coordinator of that department to learn their requirements for enrollment. Unfunded students should follow the [Graduate School's rules on enrollment](#).

Dissertators must always enroll for 3 credits during the fall and spring terms (and summer if funded over the summer term).

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Degree Requirements

Even though the Forestry PhD prescribes no specific graduate coursework due to the diversity of research areas available and students select appropriate graduate-level coursework in consultation with their advisor and a graduate advisory committee, there are still some minimum requirements that need to be met by all Forestry PhD students. These requirements include

- Completion of **32 graduate-level credits** which
 - must be numbered 300 and above
 - are graded (no pass/fail or audited courses count)
 - can include seminar credits and any Forest and Wildlife Ecology 990 Research and Thesis credits
 - must be completed before dissertator status can be granted
- Completion of a **9 credit minor** (for more information on minors please see the [Graduate School's Minors](#) information)
- **At least 1 credit from a professional development seminar**, in consultation with their committee, students should select at least one course that would develop skills applicable to life after graduate school (examples include teaching, communication, proposal development, presentation skills, mentoring)
- **At least 1 credit from a graduate-level seminar**, in consultation with their committee, students should select at least one course in which participants discuss, critique or apply topics in the literature
- Maintenance of a **3.0 GPA** (minimum)
- Passing the **preliminary exam**
- Preparation, defense and public presentation of a **dissertation** based on original research

All Forestry PhD students are required to submit their [PhD course and minor certification form](#) to the Student Services Coordinator (Sara Rodock). It is recommended that students complete the form by the end of their second year and it is required that the form be completed before a student can request their preliminary exam warrant. The form can and should be completed before the student has finished your course work. Students are allowed to make changes to their proposed course work.

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Preliminary Exam and Dissertator Status

Early in the semester in which a student intends to take their preliminary exam they need to submit the [online warrant request form](#). By filling out this form students will be giving the Student Services Coordinator, Sara Rodock, the information necessary for their warrant to be requested from the Graduate School. By requesting the warrant the student will trigger a check of their record by both the department and the Graduate School. The online warrant request form should be filled out four weeks in advance of the exam.

Once a student has passed their preliminary exam and all of their committee members have signed the preliminary warrant they should return the warrant to Sara Rodock for final processing so that they can become a dissertator.

Students who have passed their preliminary exam are called dissertators. There are very specific rules for being a dissertator, it is very important that students follow all of the rules: if a student fails to follow these rules, they may lose their dissertator status. A full listing of the dissertator rules can be found on the [Graduate' School policy page](#). The three most important rules of being a dissertator are:

- Dissertators must maintain continuous registration by enrolling for 3 credits every fall and spring (and summer if funded) until they graduate, otherwise they will be assessed a degree completion fee.
- Dissertators should not enroll in any courses except research credits or a required departmental seminar unless they have an extenuating circumstance (students should check with the Student Services Coordinator if they think they have an extenuating circumstance).
- Dissertators have five years from the date that they pass prelims to defend and deposit their dissertation. If a dissertator does not meet this requirement they may be required to pass their prelim exam again before they will be allowed to graduate with their PhD degree.

Anyone with questions about dissertator status requirements should contact the [Student Services Coordinator](#) ASAP.

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Finishing the PhD

Early in the semester in which a student intends to graduate they need to submit the [online warrant request form](#). By filling out this form students will be giving the Student Services Coordinator, Sara Rodock, the information necessary for their warrant to be requested from the Graduate School. By requesting the warrant the student will trigger a check of their record by both the department and the Graduate School. The online warrant request form should be filled out four weeks in advance of the defense. For more information on the Graduate School's rules for defending, depositing and formatting your dissertation please visit their [Completing Your Degree](#) page.

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