Ph.D. Degree in Ecology and Environmental Sciences

This cross-college doctoral degree represents a broad collaboration among departments and faculty from across MSU. It provides the opportunity for motivated students to integrate our world-class faculty research programs in diverse aspects of ecology and environmental sciences, often within the unparalleled natural laboratory that is the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Particular program strengths include terrestrial and aquatic ecology, environmental biogeochemistry, evolutionary biology, hydrology and watershed analysis, quantitative ecology, agroecology, environmental risk assessment, invasive plant ecology and management, conservation biology, land rehabilitation/restoration ecology, environmental microbiology, remote sensing and spatial sciences, chemical ecology and land-atmosphere interactions.

Graduates will be well-trained professionals who will compete strongly in research, teaching, and related fields nationally and internationally.

Ecology and Environmental Sciences doctoral students will be affiliated with a home department that corresponds to that of their major faculty advisor. Other specific graduate program criteria, procedures, and processes vary among departments; students will follow those of their home department, which are also consistent with policies set forth by The Graduate School (http://www.montana.edu/gradschool).

Core Curriculum

Because of the substantial diversity in disciplinary and multidisciplinary foci within the Ecology and Environmental Sciences doctoral program, there is no universal required core curriculum. The student’s individual coursework program will be developed in partnership with the major advisor and graduate committee, and must be consistent with the home department and the Graduate School guidelines and requirements. A minimum of 30 credits of resident coursework must be taken from MSU.

Program Participants

The program is jointly centered in the departments of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences (http://landresources.montana.edu) (College of Agriculture) and Ecology (http://www.montana.edu/ecology) (College of Letters and Science) but is also open to students and faculty mentors in other MSU departments who undertake relevant doctoral study, such as the departments of Animal and Range Sciences (http://animalrange.montana.edu), Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology (http://plantsciences.montana.edu) and Microbiology and Immunology (http://www.montana.edu/mbi) (College of Agriculture), Earth Sciences (http://www.montana.edu/earthsciences) (College of Letters and Science) and the College of Nursing (http://www.montana.edu/nursing).

Stipend and operations funding are generally from research grants awarded to faculty members, but graduate teaching assistantships and other forms of support are also available on a limited basis.

For more information about the Ph.D. degree in Ecology and Environmental Sciences, faculty and their areas of research, application requirements and procedures, visit the departmental web pages listed below.

- Ecology - http://www.montana.edu/ecology/
- Land Resources & Environmental Sciences - http://landresources.montana.edu/
- Animal and Range Sciences - http://animalrange.montana.edu/
- Earth Sciences - http://www.montana.edu/earthsciences