CNR Graduate Student & Faculty Advisor

HANDBOOK

2026-27 EDITION

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Welcome from the College of Natural Resources

Welcome to the College of Natural Resources! You are joining a rich and diverse group of scholars and fellow graduate students. During graduate school you will explore new ideas, expand your experiences, and broaden your perspectives. You will learn from world-class faculty and many of you will publish your own research before you graduate. We encourage you to collaborate, discuss ideas with your advisors and fellow students, engage in discussions with people outside your disciplines, and learn together. We are sure you all will have a great experience, and we are excited to have you join us!

Dr. Dennis Becker, Dean of the College of Natural Resources
Dr. Kerri Vierling, Associate Dean of the College of Natural Resources
Dr. Elise Kokenge, Director of Graduate Studies
Dr. Elise Kokenge, Director of Master of Natural Resources
Dr. Jaap Vos, Director of Environmental Science

1 About the College of Natural Resources

All graduate students at the University of Idaho are members of the College of Graduate Studies (COGS). However, while completing your graduate studies with faculty from the different departments and programs within the College of Natural Resources (CNR) you will likely work in college research labs, you may help teach college courses, and you will have CNR faculty members on your committee. Graduate students in the College of Natural Resources work on cutting-edge research projects with faculty that have international recognition. Many are funded through agencies like NASA, the Center for Disease Control, and the National Science Foundation. Our graduate students attend many scientific conferences, publish journal articles, and win national awards.

CNR is comprised of three academic departments (Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences; Fish and Wildlife Sciences; and Natural Resources and Society) and an interdisciplinary program in Environmental Science. CNR has more than 50 faculty that administer 9 undergraduate degree programs and the Environmental Science Program has over 90 faculty interspersed across the University of Idaho. CNR was recently ranked 1st in value for Natural Resources and Conservation by USA Today and 5th for program quality. CNR offers master and doctoral degrees and supports a wide array of research laboratories, affiliated institutes, and extension programs. CNR also houses several off-campus facilities including the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, McCall Outdoor Science School, Rinker Rock Creek Ranch, the Taylor Wilderness Research Station, and the University's Experimental Forest.

The College has a vibrant graduate student program with over 400 graduate students. Graduate students enjoy cutting edge laboratories, access to Idaho's natural landscapes, and world-renowned faculty. CNR has a diverse faculty spanning all three departments and multiple individual academic programs, including the MNR Graduate Program and the university-wide Environmental Science Program. The College of Natural Resources administers two graduate

certificates, five professional master's degree options (M.N.R.), two Master of Science Degrees, and two doctoral Degrees.

Although all the graduate degrees are offered and administered at the College level, each of the respective departmental faculties has developed policies and procedures to be in line with their professional and disciplinary standards, which does lead to some slight differences. Guidance and overall supervision of these procedures are provided by each department head and/or program lead.

Table 1.1 Graduate Degrees at a Glace

MS in Natural Resources • Thesis and non-thesis options available • 30 credits to be selected with guidance from your graduate committee • Some departmental course requirements	**MS in Environmental Science** • 30 credits to be selected with guidance from your graduate committee (thesis) or grad studies office (non-thesis) • Some departmental course requirements
PhD in Natural Resources • 78 credits to be selected with guidance from your graduate committee • Some departmental course requirements	**PhD in Environmental Science** • 78 credits to be selected with guidance from your graduate committee • Some departmental course requirements
MNR Online (four options currently available) • 30 credits from topical bins • Final professional portfolio	**MNR EESC Residential program at McCall** • 34 credits, set curriculum. • Integrated teaching requirements • Final professional portfolio

Note: under special circumstances and with approval of the Major Advisor, some residential degrees can be completed at a distance (online).

In this handbook, sections that differ by the departments/programs are highlighted by shaded boxes. When the separate faculties change the content of these boxes, this guide is updated. This guide has been prepared by CNR to supplement general information and regulations in the University of Idaho Catalog (Click Here) and guidelines provided by COGS concerning graduate education at the University of Idaho. The focus of this guide is on information pertaining to all graduate studies associated with faculty in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences (FWS); the Department of Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences (FRFS); the Department of Natural Resources and Society (NRS); and the Environmental Science Program (ENVS). **In the case of any apparent conflict within this document and COGS policies, COGS policies and ultimately the UI catalog will always take precedence.**

1.1 Departments and Programs within CNR

This section will briefly describe the different sub-units within the college that each help deliver part of the CNR graduate experience. Many of these sub-units work with their respective faculties to arrange graduate student space (desks and offices) and organize department/program level graduate activities.

1.1.1 The Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences

FWS is one of three departments in CNR. The College began offering wildlife courses in 1915 and fisheries courses in the late 1940s. In 1942, a Range-Wildlife management option was added and the first Masters Degree in Wildlife was granted in 1950. By 1952, separate wildlife and fisheries management undergraduate degrees were offered. The FWS department trains thesis-based graduate students that receive MS and PhD degrees in Natural Resources, Environmental Science, or Water Resources.

The department consists of University of Idaho faculty as well as members of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop Unit) whose salaries are paid by the USGS. The Idaho Coop Unit was founded in 1947 and is one of 40 Coop Units in the country. The USGS faculty in the Coop Unit teach graduate courses, train and mentor graduate students, act as liaisons with our state and federal natural resource agencies, and partner with UI faculty to initiate collaborative research projects that help to solve pressing management challenges of agency cooperators.

Dr. Frank Wilhelm is the Department Head for FWS, and more information on Dr. Wilhelm, the staff, and faculty for this department can be found here (Our People - Fish and Wildlife Sciences | University of Idaho).

1.1.2 The Department of Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences

The Department of Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences (FRFS) is the largest department within the College of Natural Resources. The FRFS department administers a graduate certificate in Fire Ecology, Management, and Technology.

The vision of the FRFS department is: “To be regionally and globally recognized leaders in education, research, and outreach that advances understanding and management of ecosystems, with a focus on forest and rangeland processes, sustainable products and services, and communities.”

The mission of the FRFS department is given by:

“As Idaho’s land grant university, our mission is tri-partite:

- Education: We produce outstanding graduates equipped to be successful natural resources managers and scientists in a rapidly changing world. Our graduates are distinguished by their multidisciplinary analytical skills and tools. Their training is grounded in the scientific method, and they have the ability to think broadly, creatively, and critically about diverse topics. Students learn to question assumptions as information is gathered, summarized, analyzed, and interpreted. Our degrees emphasize critical thinking through coursework and hands-on field and laboratory experiences.
- Research: We conduct and disseminate objective and relevant research on the bio-physical and socioeconomic aspects of ecosystems, including the people who value them, the products derived from them, the institutions affecting them, and their

ecological functioning and biodiversity. Our research strengths reside in both fundamental and applied science and our students, faculty, staff, and partners benefit from an interdisciplinary, respectful, and productive environment.

- Outreach: Our outreach programs transfer insights and knowledge from research to help society improve everyday activities. We share our findings beyond scientific outlets to reach, engage, and expand our broad stakeholder network. We solicit information needs from our stakeholders and distinguish ourselves by leading managers and communities to incorporate new knowledge from natural resources science and management in a quest for sustainability."

Dr. Charles Goebel is the Department Head for FRFS, and more information on Dr. Goebel, the staff, and faculty for this department can be found here Our People - Forest, Rangeland and Fire Sciences | University of Idaho.

1.1.3 The Department of Natural Resources and Society

The Department of Natural Resources and Society (NRS) is a faculty in applied social and environmental sciences to advance natural resource management and policy Natural Resources and Society | University of Idaho. The NRS department is the administrative home of the Environmental Science Program (ENVS), McCall Field Campus & McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS), Policy Analysis Group (PAG), and Wildland Fire Center (WFC).

The NRS department trains thesis-based graduate students that receive MS and PhD degrees in Natural Resources, Environmental Science, and Water Resources. The NRS department advises non-thesis-based graduate students that receive MS and MNR degrees in Environmental Science (MS-only) and Natural Resources (MNR-only).

Under the umbrella of the Master of Natural Resources (MNR) program, the Environmental Education and Science Communication (MNR-EESC) concentration centers on an 11-month graduate residency at the McCall Field Campus. Degree completion is assessed through a professional portfolio of artifacts that highlight signature projects from across the core curriculum.

The Natural Resources and Society Department additionally administers two graduate certificates: 1) the Remote Sensing of the Environment and 2) the Certificate in Environmental Education and Science Communication (EESC-Cert). The EESC-Cert is a 20-credit graduate certificate designed for MS and PhD students who wish to add outreach and science communication skills to their degree. The Certificate requires residency at the McCall Field Campus.

Dr. Jaap Vos is the Department Head for NRS. Dr. Karla Eitel is the Director of the McCall Field Campus. More information on Dr. Vos, Dr. Eitel, the staff, and faculty for this department can be found here Our People - Natural Resources and Society | University of Idaho.

1.1.4 The Environmental Science Program

The Environmental Science Program (ENVS) is housed within the NRS Department and emphasizes integrated scientific approaches to studying and addressing questions regarding the environment. ENVS is a campus-wide program administered by the UI College of Natural in affiliation with faculty from 9 different UI Colleges.

The ENVS Program offers in-person and remote thesis and non-thesis-based Master of Science degrees, a PhD degree, and a joint MS-JD degree with the College of Law.

Dr. Jaap Vos is the Director of the ENVS Program. Dr. David Roon is the Assistant Director of the ENVS Program. More information on Dr. Vos, Dr. Roon, the staff, and faculty for this program can be found here Our People - Environmental Science | University of Idaho.

1.1.5 The Master of Natural Resources Program

The Master of Natural Resources (MNR) is a college level program and is an interdisciplinary course-based graduate program designed for current and upcoming professionals who wish to enhance their educational credentials for a career in natural resources. The fundamental objective of the MNR graduate program is to integrate and scale various perspectives – ecological, the human dimension, planning, policy and law, and practical tools – into a systems view of natural resource stewardship.

These professional degrees are accessible to students of diverse academic backgrounds and will help graduates develop credentials and skills for the effective management of natural resources. Many students enter the program to change career directions, from a related or unrelated field to the management of natural resources. To serve a cross-country as well as international student population, MNR offers a complete curriculum of online courses, but can also be taken on campus or as a hybrid program. The MNR program currently offers four areas of specialization available 100% online, hybrid, or in person, and one option only available at the McCall Outdoor Science School in person.

MNR degree has five options:

- Integrated Natural Resources (online or hybrid); Integrated Natural Resources
- Fire Ecology and Management (online or hybrid); Fire and Ecology Management
- Restoration Ecology and Habitat Management (online or hybrid); Restoration Ecology & Habitat Management
- Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences and Management (online or hybrid); Fish and Wildlife Sciences and Management
- Environmental Education and Science Communication (EESC; residential in McCall, Idaho); Environmental Education and Science Communication

The purpose of the residential Environmental Education and Science Communication (EESC) option is to help prepare professionals who will help to shape our future generation of citizens. These professionals may serve in the classroom, in the field, as formal educators, or as

scientists. They will have the skills to effectively educate a diversity of learners through experiential methods, using the outdoors as an integrating context for learning about science, community and place.

Students work with faculty and staff advisors from across the CNR to develop their individual curricula and Final Portfolio. A core group of faculty from the MNR are responsible for overseeing the program and evaluating final work.

The Director of the Master of Natural Resources is Dr. Elise Kokenge, ekokenge@uidaho.edu.

2 CNR Graduate Studies Office Overview

2.1 Role of the CNR Director Graduate Studies

All the graduate programs in the College of Natural Resources are overseen in the college by the CNR Graduate Studies Office. The Graduate Studies Office is run by the CNR Program Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and staff. The DGS is responsible for making graduate students aware of the College's academic expectations (including requirements for good academic standing). The DGS serves as the administrative coordinator of graduate studies within the College of Natural Resources, overseeing all graduate degrees, with input from the directors of the two college-wide programs: the Environmental Science Program and the Master of Natural Resources Program, each are administered by its own Director.

In terms of graduate studies, the DGS functions as the primary liaison among the graduate faculty within the College of Natural Resources, graduate students, and the College of Graduate Studies (COGS). COGS oversee all aspects of the graduate student experience from graduate admissions to graduation. The DGS serves as the point of contact for potential graduate students, serves as an advocate for current graduate students, and is responsible for the quality and academic integrity of the College's graduate program. As such, the DGS must be aware of ongoing developments impacting the graduate faculty, be available and responsive to the graduate students, and be familiar with the processes and policies within the College of Natural Resources and the College of Graduate Studies.

Students in need of guidance on form submissions should first consult with their Major Advisor to confirm the accuracy of the forms to be submitted; these are then forwarded to the CNR Graduate Studies office for signature by the DGS. There are two exceptions to this workflow: students in the ENVS program will submit their forms directly to the Director of Environmental Science for signature and students the MNR program will submit their forms to the MNR Director for signature. **Thesis and dissertation cover pages should be signed by the respective department chair or in the case of the Environmental Science Program, by their director.**

Key duties of the CNR DGS include:

- Increase quality of graduate experiences and education within the College of Natural Resources
- Promote a safe, effective, and supportive working environment for graduate students

- Administer the CNR Graduate Studies Office
- Chair CNR Graduate Council

2.2 Role of the CNR Graduate Council

The College of Natural Resources Graduate Council is a standing college committee that seeks to ensure that graduate policies are clear, fair, and consistently applied across the college.

The specific responsibilities of this committee are:

- Discussing and recommending revisions to the CNR Graduate Handbook
- Discussing and recommending revisions to the CNR graduate websites and marketing materials
- Discussing and recommending research space and resource needs
- Making recommendations on awardees of the CNR graduate student fellowships
- Discussing initiatives to improve the graduate student experience
- Evaluating and reviewing assessment data

Membership of the committee includes:

- The DGS acts as chair (without vote)
- One faculty member from each of FWS, FRFS, NRS, MNR, and ENVS
- One graduate student (recommended by CNR GPSA)

The committee's recommendations are passed to the CNR DGS who will communicate the council's recommendations to the CNR leadership. Editorial updates are administered by the CNR Graduate Studies Office.

2.3 COGS, CNR, and Graduate Student Community Building

Whether you are a new student or one who has been here for a semester or two, we would like to encourage you to regularly check the COGS website. Within the site, there is information on workshops and professional development activities (www.uidaho.edu/COGS/pdi), resources relating to deadlines, forms, and processes (COGS Dates and Deadlines Sharepoint) and a variety of other links to assist in your graduate study journey. Funding opportunities are also identified on the COGS website can help you learn about fellowships and other funding potentials. If you are a new graduate student, there are a series of orientation events and trainings that all new graduate students are required to attend. Information on those trainings can be found at the Graduate Assistant Training link on the COGS website (Click Here).

Graduate student community building occurs across the university and within the college. All University of Idaho graduate students are eligible for membership in the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). This organization provides valuable leadership development, networking and funding opportunities (which may be restricted to active members). COGS has multiple opportunities to share graduate work with the university community (e.g., 3MT, Innovation Showcase, Engineering Expo, etc.). COGS has multiple opportunities to share graduate work with the university community (e.g., 3MT, Innovation Showcase, Engineering Expo, etc.).

A full list of the resources available from COGS can be found on the Graduate student support programming page and University award opportunities at COGS funding and assistantships.

2.4 Graduate Assistantships: Research & Teaching Assistants

Research and teaching assistantships can be up to 20 hours per week (full-time) or less (part-time). Students are considered employees and should consult their supervisor for all employee related responsibilities and university processes. All graduate assistants are expected to attend the College of Graduate Studies Graduate Student Institute training and be familiar with the University of Idaho Grad Assistant Handbook.

Graduate assistants are eligible to work additional temporary hours beyond the 20 hours for full-time assistantships: up to 10 additional hours when classes are in session and 20 additional hours a week over break periods (winter and summer). International students are restricted to the parameters of their visas and should check with the International Programs Office to work beyond the 20 hours of a full-time assistantship.

- **Classes in session:** 20-hour full-time assistantship + 10 hours temporary employee hours = max 30 hour per week.
- **Break periods:** 20-hour full-time assistantship + 20 hours temporary employee hours = 40 hours per week.
- **International students** and their supervisors should check with IPO for visa restrictions.
- Students receiving scholarship funds are required to be registered students.

3 Initial Steps for Thesis-Based Students

3.1 MS and PhD – General Overview

MS and PhD students in the College of Natural Resources may receive their graduate degree in Natural Resources or Environmental Science. Natural Resource degrees require a major professor from the College of Natural Resources. Environmental Science degrees can have a major professor from any college at the university, provided the faculty is an ENVS affiliate member. All thesis-based degrees require the completion of a research project that is the result of original work carried out by the student under the supervision of the major professor and the graduate advisory committee.

The table on the following page contains general guidelines for full-time graduate students pursuing MS and PhD programs. Some of these activities may take longer if the graduate student is a part-time student. Students should confirm with the major professor and committee regarding specific expectations for following these guidelines and meeting timeline expectations. COGS provides specific deadlines on their Dates and Deadlines web page (Click Here), particularly regarding thesis submissions and defenses.

Table 3.1 General Timeline for Full-time Graduate Students

Action	***Program Deadline***	
	MS	**PhD**
Submission of major professor form	Beginning of first semester	Beginning of first semester
Selection of committee	Variable. Suggested by the end of the 2nd semester	Variable. Suggested by the end of the 2nd semester; required before preliminary examination
Research proposal and presentation	Variable. Suggested by the end of the **2nd semester**	Variable. Suggested by the end of the **3rd semester**
Study plan submission+	Variable. Suggested by the end of the **2nd semester**	Variable. Suggested by the end of the **3rd semester**
Preliminary examination	N/A	Variable but only after completion of the majority of coursework (non-research credits); *Please see section 7.1 for more details*
Application to graduate	One semester prior to expected graduation date	One semester prior to expected graduation date
Submission of thesis to committee – **internal deadline**	**At least two weeks before defense (as determined by committee)**	**At least two weeks before defense (as determined by committee)**
Request to Proceed with Final Defense form submitted to COGS **HARD DEADLINE**	**Two weeks before defense**	**Two weeks before defense**
Final defense* **HARD DEADLINE**	**Three weeks prior to last day of last term**	**Three weeks prior to last day of last term**

+Students using Financial Aid may need to have study plan approved by the 10th day of the semester.
**Note: Summer defenses are rare and conducted only under extenuating circumstances. All committee members must agree to allow a summer defense to proceed.*

Most thesis students come to campus to pursue their degrees, but some students pursue their degrees completely online. Importantly, all the degree requirements for these place-bound thesis-based students are identical to a student taking the degree on campus. Thesis based degrees are not course-based degrees. Place-bound graduate research students conduct novel research within their local regions and in many cases continue to work with their current employer. These degrees are primarily aimed at people that either work with natural resource companies or within state and federal natural resources agencies. This is a non-traditional route

for research-based degrees, and this approach requires a great deal of communication and coordination between graduate students, their advisors, and committee members.

3.2 Selection of Major Professor

MS thesis and PhD programs require a major professor prior to admission. If not already done during your admission process, you should complete the COGS Appointment of *Major Professor and Committee form* as early as possible in the first semester. At this stage you only need to assign the Major Professor and this form can be found on the found on the Forms-College of Graduate Studies page (Click Here). Appointment of a major professor provides COGS and the CNR DGS with a single point of contact on the faculty. It is recommended that students work with their faculty to clarify expectations using the "Clarifying expectations – tool for students, advisors, and committees" found in the Appendix. COGS rules and regulations for the appointment of co-major professors can be found in the catalog: College of Graduate Studies: Appointment of Major Professor and Committee for All Degree Seeking Graduate Students.

ENVS MS Non-thesis students are assigned a temporary major professor and the Appointment of Major Professor and Committee form is completed and submitted to the CNR Graduate Studies Office cnr-grad- studies@uidaho.edu as **part of the admission process.** Before beginning the final ENVS 5990 project, students must secure a faculty mentor and submit the Appointment of Major Professor and Committee form to cnr-grad-studies@uidaho.edu again to change faculty no later than their second-to-last semester.

MNR students are assigned a major professor and the Appointment of Major Professor and Committee form is completed and submitted to the CNR Graduate Studies Office cnr-grad-studies@uidaho.edu as **part of the admission process.** Students are welcome to select a different major professor at any time.

3.3 Forming the Degree Committee

For MS Thesis and PhD programs, you must have a graduate committee composed of members you select in consultation with your major professor. The committee selection is guided by both the student and the major professor, then approved by the graduate program's administrator and the dean of the College of Graduate Studies (COGS). Your major professor can (and should) provide guidance and input throughout this process. It's important to identify committee members who share some of your academic interests and have skills that will support your research and development. These individuals will likely be instructors for your coursework and key sources of academic advice. Committee members are expected to be active contributors to your graduate program—not just "rubber-stamp" reviewers of your coursework, proposal, or thesis/dissertation. Early in your program, you and your committee should establish shared expectations regarding each member's role and how the committee will function. Use the Clarifying Expectations for Students, Advisors, and Committees found in the Appendix.

Each student's experience will be unique, and it is your responsibility to propose research or scholarly work for your thesis or project. You should discuss this proposal with your major

professor and negotiate a mutually agreed-upon plan with both your major professor and committee. Ultimately, COGS must approve the final composition of your committee. Keep in mind that individual programs may have slightly different policies regarding the minimum requirements for Master's and Doctoral committees (Table 3.2). For more detailed guidance and a recommended timeline for committee formation, please refer to the COGS Steps to degree guides website.

Table 3.2 CNR Graduate Committee Requirements

FRFS/FWS	Size and Composition	Other Considerations
Master	At least 3 faculty members:	Each must hold at least an MS degree.
	Major professor from discipline.	Major professor must be on UI graduate faculty.*
	A 2nd member from discipline. A 3rd member from in/outside discipline / or for FWS from a supporting field.	Half the committee must be UI faculty
Doctoral	At least 4 faculty members:	Each must hold a PhD degree.
	Major professor from discipline*	Major professor must be on UI graduate faculty.*
	A 2nd member from discipline. A 3rd member from in/outside discipline. A 4th member from outside discipline / or for FWS from a supporting field.	Half committee must be UI grad faculty.
**Affiliate and Adjunct Faculty are not eligible to serve as major professor*		
NRS	**Size and Composition**	**Other Considerations**
Master	At least 3 faculty members:	Each must hold at least an MS degree.
	Major professor from discipline.	Major professor must be on UI graduate faculty.*
	A 2nd member from discipline or field of study. A 3rd member from in/outside discipline or field of study.	Half the committee must be UI faculty
Doctoral	At least 4 faculty members:	Each must hold a PhD degree.
	Major professor* from discipline. A 2nd member from discipline or field of study. 3rd member from in/outside discipline or field of study. A 4th member from in/outside discipline or field of study.	Major professor must be UI grad faculty.* Half committee must be UI grad faculty.
**Affiliate and Adjunct Faculty are not eligible to serve as major professor*		

Table 3.3 CNR Graduate Committee Requirements Continued

ENVS	Size and Composition	Other Considerations
Master (Non-Thesis)	Not required	Major professor must be on UI grad faculty.* Major professor to mentor final project by the semester before graduation.
Master (Thesis)	At least 3 faculty members:	Major professor must be on UI grad faculty.* More than half of committee must be on UI graduate faculty. It is encouraged that at least two colleges are represented.
Doctoral	At least 4 faculty members:	Each must hold a PhD degree. Faculty must cover 2 of 3 option areas (biological, social, or physical science). Major professor must be on UI grad faculty.* Half of committee must be on UI graduate faculty. It is encouraged that at least two colleges are represented.

**Affiliate and Adjunct Faculty are not eligible to serve as major professor*

Faculty members of other institutions and other professionals may serve on committees. Please note that COGS has rules regarding the proportion of UI graduate faculty you must have on your committee. Also, please be sure to avoid conflicts of interest by not assigning committee members that have a financial or political stake in your research results. If in doubt, **ask COGS**. See COGS policy on committees: https://uidaho-preview.courseleaf.com/colleges-related-units/graduate-studies/#generalgraduateregulationstext. You should have your committee selected and officially established (refer to Table 3.1). Once you have discussed potential committee members with your major professor and they have agreed to serve on your committee, you need to fully complete an *Appointment of Major Professor and Committee form*. At this point, you should arrange an initial committee meeting. This is usually achieved at the end of the first semester or start of the second semester and generally will enable you to present initial research ideas to your committee and discuss your study plan. Usually, students are asked to provide a brief (10-15 slides) presentation to their committee members.

See the CNR Clarifying Expectations Tool to navigate expectations with your major professor and committee.

3.4 Study Plan for Thesis and Doctoral Students

Your study plan is a list of courses to be taken during the graduate program. These (and only these) courses are required prior to graduation. As such, it is worth the time to work with your major professor and your graduate committee to carefully select these courses. COGS provides complete instructions on how to develop and/or change study plans. That information can be found on the Student Resources-College of Graduate Studies web page. (Click Here)

The approval queue process for study plans flows from the student to the major professor to the CNR DGS. There should be a comment in the "workflow comments box" that the entire committee has seen and has agreed to the study plan. The study plan is to be *jointly* developed by the student and the major professor in consultation with the student's graduate advisory committee. It is often necessary to take more than the minimum number of credit hours to attain educational objectives, to meet prerequisite requirements for other courses, or to satisfy deficiencies within a field of study.

3.5 Study Plan for Non-Thesis Environmental Science

Students in the ENVS MS Non-thesis program are required to submit a study plan prior to graduation.

Table 3.4 ENVS Study Plan and 5990 Timetable

Action	Timing
ENVS 5990 – 1st credit	First or second semester with David Roon
Major Professor form submitted	A soon as a faculty mentor agrees to supervise the ENVS 5990 Final Project, **but no later than the semester before graduation**
ENVS 5990 – 2 credit Final Project (proposal & final product)	Semester of graduation
Transfer credits	Obtain director level approval first semester

3.6 Study Plan for Master of Natural Resources (MNR)

Students in MNR programs are not required to submit a study unless they need to transfer in director approved credits for the degree (e.g., REHM, FEM, INR, FWSM, or EESC). COGS provides complete instructions on how to develop and/or change study plans. That information can be found on the Student Resources-College of Graduate Studies web page. (Click Here)

4 Course Requirements for Thesis Based Degrees

4.1 MS in Natural Resources - Thesis

Details on the requirements for the MS in Natural Resources can be found on the COGS website "Master's study plan and degree audit" here. Within CNR, more specific requirements are listed below (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 MS Thesis Natural Resources Course Requirements

FWS requires two seminars (5010 and 5060) during the graduate program. Link to MS FWS
FRFS requires 2 semesters of seminar with at least one from FRFS. Link to MS FRFS
FRFS requires at least one quantitative 4000-level or above course (as determined by the graduate advisory committee). Link to MS FRFS
NRS requires all graduate students to take: 1) NRS 5060 Fundamentals of Research (3 credits), and 2) NRS 5080 Foundations of Natural Resources and Society (3 credits). Link to MS NRS

4.2 MS in Environmental Science - Thesis

Details on the requirements for the MS in Environmental Science can be found in the course COGS website "Master's study plan and degree audit" here. Ideally, courses are to be jointly selected by the student, the advisor, and the committee.

Table 4.2 ENVS MS Thesis Course Requirements

ENVS MS Thesis requires

- Depth requirement: A student must complete 12 credits in one of three option areas: biological science, physical science, or social science.
- Breadth requirement: A student must complete a minimum of 3 credits at the 5000-level in each of the other two option areas.
- One course (3 credits) in appropriate research methods or statistics at the 5000-level.
- ENVS 5010 (2 credits)
- ENVS 5000 (6 credits and no more than 10, thesis degree) Link to MS Thesis ENVS

4.3 PhD in Natural Resources

Details on curricular requirements for the PhD can be found on COGS website "Doctoral study plan and degree audit" here and in the course catalog Natural Resources (PhD) (Click Here).

Table 4.3 PhD Natural Resources Course Requirements

FWS requires two seminars (5010) and (5060) during the graduate program. Link to PhD FWS
FRFS requires 3 semesters of seminar with at least one from FRFS. Link to PhD FRFS
FRFS requires at least one quantitative 4000-level or above course (as determined by the graduate advisory committee). Link to PhD FRFS
NRS requires all graduate students to take: 1) NRS 5060 Fundamentals of Research (3 credits), and 2) NRS 5080 Foundations of Natural Resources and Society (3 credits). Link to PhD NRS

Most students entering the doctoral program have successfully completed a MS degree program with thesis. Admission to the doctoral program without completing a MS degree is possible with the agreement by the major professor and approval by faculty who review an applicant's admission materials. A student who completes a MS degree within CNR or ENVS may continue into a CNR or ENVS PhD program with the agreement of the proposed major professor for the dissertation. This process requires signing a change of curriculum form at COGS and does not require the student to reapply to graduate school.

4.4 PhD in Environmental Science

Details on curricular requirements for the PhD can be found on the COGS website "Doctoral study plan and degree audit" here and requirements for the PhD in Environmental Science follow COGS guidelines. Specific courses are arranged between the student, major professor, and committee.
Students entering the PhD program without a master's degree are strongly encouraged to develop study plan that builds on the requirements from the master's thesis degree.

ENVS requires two seminars (5010) and at least one research methods 5000-level or above course (as determined by the graduate advisory committee). 3 credits in each non-depth area: Biological, Physical, or Social science for a total of 6 credits. Link to PhD ENVS

5 Proposal Overview for MS and PhD Students

The different departments and programs within the College of Natural Resources have developed different requirements for the research proposal.

Table 5.1 Proposal Overview for MS and PhD Students

FWS, **FRFS**, **NRS** and **ENVS** require both a written project proposal (Table 3.1) and a presentation, ordinarily before the end of the second semester for an MS degree (thesis) and in the case of the PhD a research proposal is *usually* expected before the end of the third semester.

FWS requires a formal presentation of the proposal for the MS or PhD during the departmental seminar course (FISH/WLF 5010).

ENVS non-thesis requires a written project proposal as part of the 3 credit 5990 non-thesis requirement submitted to the major professor of record.[1]

There are two different types of proposals: thesis-based programs write a research proposal and non-thesis programs write a project proposal. In the case of a thesis, the proposal must provide appropriate literature review, describe the question(s) to be addressed, postulate the hypotheses to be tested, and outline the data to be collected and analyzed to test the hypothesis and allow appropriate conclusions to be drawn. In the case of a non-thesis project, the proposal must describe the project to be undertaken and its desired outcome in sufficient detail to serve as a guiding document or project plan.

When a research proposal or project plan is required, it should be completed by each student in consultation with the major professor and graduate advisory committee as soon as possible after beginning the program. In the case of a formal written research proposal, you should give your committee members a period of at least two weeks to review and return the draft proposal before scheduling the proposal presentation. After your PhD or Thesis committee approves your

[1] ENVS 5990 Guidelines can be found on the ENVS Internal Site and on the ENVS Non-Thesis Canvas site.

proposal, you are **required** to make an oral presentation of the proposed work. The date must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance, but after your committee has officially approved your proposal. The presentation must be attended by all your graduate advisory committee members and may at the committee's discretion be open to other individuals[2]. Following the open portion of the proposal presentation, the committee should exclude all other persons and continue to evaluate the candidate's knowledge of his or her field.

Timeframe: Proposal presentations are typically between 20 and 30 minutes with time for questions, answers, and discussion. Often there is a closed session after the presentation for the graduate student and their committee.

Scheduling: It is the student's responsibility to set a date for the proposal presentation, scheduling and advertising in coordination with departmental/program staff. Proposal presentations should ideally be made only during the academic year (fall or spring semester). Most of the faculty are on 9-month appointments and not generally employed by the UI during the summer session, so this time should be avoided.

Table 5.2 Suggested Research Proposal Format

General background and introduction
- Statement of problem
- Purpose of project (research)
- Relevant literature, materials, research and/or theory

Design and methodology – describe hypotheses
- Describe the proposed experimental design and methodology, including methods to be used to analysis of data
- Implications of proposed work for management, development, education, planning, future research, etc.
- Timeline for competition of your research
- Proposal Outcomes

6 MS Thesis and Defense Overview

The College of Graduate Studies has a Graduate Handbook for preparing and submitting theses and dissertations, which can be found by clicking here.

This section contains the program specific requirements that are in addition to the COGS general guidelines.

6.1 Preparation of the MS Thesis

In general, a thesis is a scholarly report, typically one describing the development and testing of a hypothesis by the scientific method and demonstrating originality and creativity by the student. A student in the thesis option must submit a thesis or publishable manuscript(s) at the

[2] Policy note: Proposal presentations do not qualify as public presentations and therefore inclusion of persons outside of the student's committee are optional.

discretion of the candidate's graduate advisory committee. If the thesis research is to be prepared and presented as a publication, the report submitted to the department and to the College of Graduate Studies prior to graduation must still be formatted according to the Thesis and Dissertation Handbook. In some cases, separate publishable papers are presented as chapters within the thesis format. All theses are published through the COGS electronic thesis and dissertation submission site: https://www.etdadmin.com/auth0redirect?siteId=126.

Although the size of a MS thesis can vary widely, they typically range between 40 and 70 pages (1.5 spacing, single sided, 1" margins). The traditional format is a single report of research including an introduction, literature review, methods, results, and discussion, usually in separate chapters. The manuscript format is based on the style required by a publisher of a scientific journal. Usually, the manuscript format includes an overall introduction, a chapter(s) that appears as an individual manuscript(s), then, an overall conclusion chapter (especially if several manuscripts are submitted). **The format of theses (either traditional or manuscript) is at the discretion of the major professor and graduate advisory committee.** Regardless of the format selected, the thesis must be submitted to COGS according to the Thesis and Dissertation Handbook. **Thesis and dissertation cover pages should be signed by the respective department chair or in the case of the Environmental Science Program, by their director.**

The student is the sole author of the thesis or dissertation, but authorship of publications from these subsequent publications are typically multiple. The credit for authorship of publications, (i.e., first, second, third, etc.), should be clearly defined between the student and the major professor. The person(s) actively involved in proposal preparation, research design, implementation, and manuscript writing should be included as authors, with the order of authorship determined by the degree of involvement. Important factors to be considered when determining authorship include whose original idea initiated the project, who sought out and procured the funding, who had primary administrative and advisory responsibility for the project, who carried it through, and who continued to provide ideas and leadership in the project. In general, if a service is provided to a student (i.e., where funds have been expended to perform tests, conduct analysis, or develop materials) this does not qualify the person receiving the funds for automatic authorship (as they have already been paid in-kind). Such services, however, could be identified within the acknowledgements of such works.

6.2 MS Defense Overview

The general deadlines associated with defenses are outlined in Section 3.1. Specific dates for any specific semester from COGS can be found here Dates and Deadlines and this site also outlines the appropriate forms necessary for the defense to proceed.

CC your departmental administrative assistant when submitting the "Permission to Proceed" form to COGS **no less than ten working days prior to the defense date**.[3]

[3] Note: University holidays **are not** considered working days (e.g., 4th of July).

Additionally, the student must file an application to graduate one semester prior to the expected graduation date, not including summer. This form is completed via MyUI.

A public final thesis defense is required for Natural Resources and ENVS thesis options and is administered by the graduate advisory committee.[4] The student must be registered for at least one credit or GRAD 7200 to complete the defense and/or be eligible for graduation.

6.3 Format and Participants

Thesis defenses typically begin with a 30–45-minute formal presentation of research findings and are followed by up to two hours of questioning (the actual examination). All the advisory committee members must be present or by phone or video conference for the exam. **If any member is unable to attend, special rules apply (check with COGS).** It is required that this defense is open to all interested persons including faculty, other students, and community members. Scheduling is at the discretion of the candidate's department but should allow sufficient time for a committee examination to fully evaluate the candidate. The candidate is required to defend her or his work and show a satisfactory knowledge of the program and supporting field. As time allows, persons not on the student's committee are encouraged to pose questions to the candidate.

After the open portion of the exam, the examining committee should exclude all other persons and continue to evaluate the candidate's knowledge of his or her field. After the oral defense and closed-door session, the candidate's committee should confer and vote to pass or fail. A majority vote is required for a candidate to pass the defense. If the defense is failed, please see the "Final Defense" section of the catalog College of Graduates for details on next steps.

7 PhD Examinations, Dissertation, and Defense

7.1 Preliminary Examination

Given the disciplinary nature of PhD preliminary examinations and the diversity in the College of Natural Resources, each department and program has evolved slightly different requirements. The preliminary examination should be scheduled only after the student has completed the majority of the courses on his or her study plan. COGS requires that the student be registered during the semester the preliminary examination is taken. The student's committee certifies to COGS the results of the preliminary examination and if passed, the student is advanced to candidacy. *Graduation must occur no later than five years after the date on which the candidate passed his or her examination.* If the preliminary examination is failed, it may be repeated only once; the repeat examination must be taken within a period of not less than three months or more than one year following the first attempt. If a student fails the preliminary examination a second time, or the program does not allow the student to repeat the examination after the first failure or the student does not retake the examination within one year, the student is automatically moved to unclassified enrollment status and is no longer in the degree program.

[4] COGS requires all thesis and dissertation defenses to be public. See *General Graduate Regulations* in the UI Catalog: https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/graduate-studies/#generalgraduateregulationstext

The preliminary/comprehensive exam shall ordinarily contain both a written and oral portion. The format of the written exam is agreed upon by the student and the graduate advisory committee and generally is made up of questions prepared by the members of the graduate advisory committee but could include questions from faculty other than those on the graduate advisory committee at the discretion of the committee. The exam may be open or closed book depending on the choice of the committee. The oral exam may be separated in time from the written exam by no more than one month. This exam is administered by the graduate advisory committee, all members of which must be present at the oral portion of the exam. Other interested departmental faculty may attend the oral exam at the discretion of the graduate committee[5].

Once a doctoral student passes the preliminary exam, the major professor certifies that all requirements for the advancement to candidacy have been met and submits the "Report of Preliminary Examination" form to COGS. The student is then considered a "candidate" for the PhD (that is, the student has "advanced to candidacy").

Table 7.1 Preliminary Examination Requirements by Department

FRFS:

Recommended that the exam occurs within the first 36 months. Students can petition to the FRFS faculty for an extension in the time needed before taking the preliminary exam without re- applying.

1. Each subset of written questions from committee members and others may take up to a day to complete.
2. Evaluation of the written examination by the committee is completed prior to the oral exam. Performance on the written exam may be discussed with the student before the oral exam, but the student's performance in both written and oral parts of the exam is the basis for evaluating overall performance (passing/failing) on the preliminary examination.
3. In the event a student is not ready to receive a pass, the faculty may in lieu of failing the student issue a continuance and thereby allow the student to retake part or all the examination at a later date once deficiencies have been rectified.
4. If an exam is failed, both written and oral portions must be retaken. The exam may be retaken only once.

FWS:

1. The exam should be taken at least two full semesters prior to the defense.
2. The student's committee will review response to each written question and provide feedback to the student before the oral exam. Committee will vote to determine if written exam responses were sufficient to proceed to oral exam. After the oral exam, the committee will make the final determination on passage or failure of the exam by majority vote.

[5]Preliminary or comprehensive examinations do not qualify as public presentations and therefore inclusion of persons outside of the student's committee are optional. See *General Graduate Regulations* in the UI Catalog: https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/graduate-studies/#generalgraduateregulationstext

NRS and ENVS:

1. It is recommended that the exam occur during the first 36 months of the student graduate program. Students can petition the NRS faculty for an extension in the time needed before taking the preliminary exam without reapplying.
2. It is suggested that the written exam follow the standard question format described in the main text of this document. However, the written exam content and format is at the discretion of the committee and can be tailored to student career goals.
3. The committee will vote to determine if the written exam was sufficient to proceed to the oral exam. After the oral exam, the committee will make the final determination on passage or failure of the exam by majority vote.

7.2 PhD Dissertation

COGS has extensive materials developed to assist students in the dissertation process. Students are encouraged to review the Dates and Deadlines link COGS Dates and Deadlines to plan appropriately. Additionally, COGS has multiple thesis and dissertation resources: Thesis and Dissertations Resources that are critical for writing and submitting theses and dissertations. Any forms that are denoted within these links can be found on the internal COGS Student Forms page https://vandalsuidaho.sharepoint.com/:u:/r/sites/InsideUI-COGS/SitePages/Graduate-student-forms.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=I1BCgk.

A dissertation is required of all doctoral students in CNR. A significant level of originality and creativity must be displayed by the student in developing, carrying out, and writing the dissertation research project. The dissertation may be written as a paper, or papers, for submission to refereed journal(s), but the report submitted to COGS and the department must be formatted according to the Thesis and Dissertation Handbook. The number of manuscripts prepared will depend upon the breadth of the dissertation research: all significant research completed should be reported. The student is expected to submit these manuscripts for publication (manuscripts may be submitted either before or after the degree is granted). The student will ordinarily be the senior author in dissertation manuscripts submitted for publication or in the case of group research the student would ordinarily be listed as a joint first author. Students must also prepare timely progress and completion reports on their research findings as required by the funding agency. **Thesis and dissertation cover pages should be signed by the respective department chair or in the case of the Environmental Science Program, by their director.**

7.3 PhD Defense – General COGS Guidelines

The final examination is administered by the student's graduate advisory committee. The student must be registered for at least one credit of Dissertation Research (e.g. FOR/FWS/NRS/ENVS 6000) to take the examination or GRAD 7100 Continuing or GRAD 7200 Finishing for 0 credits. The final exam should not be scheduled until the major professor and the graduate advisory committee members have provided input and approved a complete (but not necessarily final) draft of the dissertation conforming to university format guidelines. Please see the Thesis and Dissertation Resource information provided by COGS (click here) for all relevant formatting and deadline information.

Students should cc the departmental administrative assistant when submitting the "*Permission to Proceed*" form to COGS *no less than ten working days prior to the defense date*.[6]

The dissertation defense is usually oral but may include a written examination. It is expected that the oral defense be public and open to all interested persons including faculty, other students, and community members.[7] The candidate is required to defend her or his work and show a satisfactory knowledge of the program and supporting field. As time allows persons not on the student's committee are encouraged to pose questions to the candidate.

After the open portion of the exam, the examining committee should exclude all other persons and continue to evaluate the candidate's knowledge of his or her field. Scheduling this seminar is at the discretion of the candidate's department but should allow sufficient time for a committee examination to fully evaluate the candidate.

After the oral defense and closed-door session, the candidate's committee should confer and vote to pass or fail. A majority vote is required for a candidate to pass the defense. If the examination is failed, please see the "Final Defense" section of the catalog College of Graduate Studies. *The final oral defense must be taken within five years after completing and passing the preliminary examination.* If more than five years elapse, the candidate will be required to take another preliminary examination or petition to have an extension.

7.4 Final Exam Format

The format of the final exam is agreed upon by the student and the graduate advisory committee. The final exam is oral and typically begins with a 30 to 45-minute formal presentation of the research findings, followed by up to two hours of questioning (the actual examination). Other topics may be included if the committee desires. All members of the graduate advisory committee must be present or in phone or video conference for the exam. If any member is unable to attend, special rules apply and you should contact COGS.

7.5 Completion of Graduate Degree Requirements

There is a difference between passing the final defense of a thesis and submitting signed, acceptable, final copies to COGS. Both are required to complete degree requirements. The final defense is an important step in the process of completing a thesis but passing the final defense does not mean that the thesis is completed and that no more revising is necessary. Additional work remaining on the thesis (from small editorial corrections to more substantive revisions) is typically discussed during the defense. A majority vote of the committee is required to pass the defense and to enable the student to move on to make revisions required by the committee. **Within six months of passing the defense, the student must have made the changes in a manner satisfactory to all members of the committee, as indicated by committee signatures on the Authorization to Submit page in the thesis or dissertation.** All thesis and dissertations

[6] University Holidays **are not** considered working days (e.g., 4th of July).
[7] COGS requires all thesis and dissertation defenses to be public. See *General Graduate Regulations* in the UI Catalog: https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/graduate-studies/#generalgraduateregulationstext

are submitted through the electronic thesis and dissertation site: https://www.etdadmin.com/?siteId=126https://vandalsuidaho.sharepoint.com/sites/Storage-CNR/Documents/GraduateCouncil/CNR Grad Handbook Revisions/www.uidaho.edu/ETD.

Graduate students typically give a copy of their thesis to their major professor, graduate advisory committee and others who substantially contributed to the project's success. Check with these people to see if they want a copy and in what form (e.g., hard-bound, spiral-bound, unbound, or electronic). Non-thesis students must submit a copy of their professional paper or project report to the department as the UI Library does not keep copies of non-thesis reports. Based on considerable experience, the faculty discourages students from leaving campus and/or taking a full-time position before their theses are completed. Under such circumstances, finishing the work is often countered by job demands or family responsibilities and the likelihood of finishing the degree is substantially reduced. Refer to the *University of Idaho Catalog* for maximum time limits for completion.

8 Academic Performance and Annual Review

8.1 Academic Requirements

In some cases, units within CNR may elect to admit a student on provisional basis. In these cases, the departments require that the student attain grades of "B" or higher and that no grades of "Incomplete" are attained during the first semester. Policy of "incomplete" grades: https://uidaho-preview.courseleaf.com/general-requirements-academic-procedures/f-grades-incomplete/.

All graduate students at the UI are required to complete an annual evaluation at the end of each calendar year. It is the responsibility of the you the student (and not the Major Professor) to complete these evaluations and to hand them into COGS. These evaluations provide formal opportunities for students to evaluate goals and progress with their major professor.
Forms can be found on the COGS Forms page:
https://vandalsuidaho.sharepoint.com/:u:/r/sites/InsideUI-COGS/SitePages/Graduate-student-forms.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=I1BCgk.

CNR recommends that all students use the Clarifying expectations for students, faculty, and committees document annually.

8.1.1 GRAD 7100 & GRAD 7200

COGS has a policy requiring graduate students to be continuously enrolled during the academic year. This means you need to be enrolled for at least one credit each semester or you will be dropped from the program. COGS has created two courses that are administered through COGS (not CNR) which will be helpful for students who might require extra time to satisfy their degree requirements but may have different challenges that prohibit registration for credit. The GRAD 7100 and GRAD 7200 courses are continuous enrollment courses that are designed to help students meet the continuous enrollment requirements, and these courses are "zero" credit

courses. There is a reduced cost associated with the GRAD 7100/7200 courses. More information can be found at GRAD 7100 and GRAD 7200 description (Click Here), and within the "Continuous Registration" section in the catalog in the COGS general graduate regulation link. Students interested in this option should contact the instructor of record for these courses (Dr. Jerry McMurtry, Dean of COGS). In addition, the College of Natural Resources requires that all students who are on a 20 hour per week RA or TA position to be enrolled for at least 9 credits. These 9 credits do not include audited courses. **Students enrolled in GRAD 7100/7200 are not eligible for graduate assistantship positions (RA & TA).**

8.2 Procedures for Review of Progress and/or Dismissal

In the event that the student is perceived by their advisor to not be making satisfactory progress in their graduate program, the University of Idaho has a series of procedures that should be followed. The end point of these procedures can include reaffirming satisfactory performance, reappointment of a Major Professor, or dismissal from the College of Graduate Studies.

Note: Continuation of the assistantship after the first semester is contingent upon satisfactory performance, progress toward your degree, and abiding by the program and University's policies and procedures.

When graduate students are provided an offer letter with stipend, fees, and other financial agreements (e.g., as is standard practice for international students), this is broadly considered a contract that can only be voided with due cause.

Due cause can include not receiving a grade of 3.0 or greater in courses as outlined in Regulation L – Academic Standing, Probation, Disqualification, and Reinstatement (Click Here and shown below). Other adequate cause criteria can include specific program requirements or those usually associated with the Graduate Student Responsibilities outlined in this handbook, the UI Student Code of Conduct, and conditions of employment governing University personnel [FSH 2300 and FSH 3910 A-1].

Annual Evaluation Form: COGS has an annual evaluation form to be used across its academic units. This annual assessment form is used for constructive feedback and suggestions. The completed forms will be included in the student's file that is kept within the CNR Graduate Studies office.

Insufficient Funds: Continuation of funding should follow the terms of the RA/TA offer letters. When offer letters contain clauses regarding salary and fees being "contingent on continuation of funds" and the monies are not continued by the source funding agency, this will not impact the standing of the graduate student.

Satisfactory Academic Progress and Performance: Enrollment in the College of Graduate Studies allows students to continue graduate study and research through the University of Idaho only as long as they maintain satisfactory academic standing and are maintaining satisfactory progress and performance toward completion of their graduate degree program.

Satisfactory academic standing is defined under the rules of probation and disqualification and provisional admission and may or may not have an effect on the use of this policy.

In the event the student has received a GPA 3.0 or better, but the major professor still feels that progress towards their research is unsatisfactory, the following guidelines should be followed:

A. **Annual Review.** Typically, the annual review process is initiated by the student and completed by the major professor using the Annual Evaluation and Performance Report provided by COGS (Click Here)

   However, this process can be initiated at any time by the Major Professor or CNR DGS.

   If a major professor has not been appointed, the program's administrator (e.g., department chair) or CNR DGS will conduct the review. The review will include a meeting with the student, where the goal is to fill out the "COGS Annual Report of Progress and Performance" form for MS or PhD students.

   When completed, the reviewer will recommend that the student continue in the program, receive a warning, or be dismissed from the program.

B. **Warning.** Should a warning be given, the student must be informed in writing of the concern, the current program policy (if any), the length of the warning period, and expectations that must be met to be removed from a warning status.

   In CNR, these expectations are discussed and agreed upon in consultation with the DGS to ensure that they are not perceived as punitive. Following the length of the warning period, the DGS, faculty member, and student will meet to assess whether outcomes and expectations have been met. In cases where outcomes equal or exceed expectations the recommendation will be to reaffirm satisfactory progress. In all other cases, the recommendation will be dismissal unless there are extenuating circumstances such as medical or other personal reasons.

   The Dean of COGS will be notified of this action. An appeal of a recommendation for a warning may be made to the Dean of COGS.

C. **Dismissal.** If Dismissal is recommended it may or may not be preceded by a warning period. If dismissal is recommended, the program's administrator or DGS forwards the recommendation and documentation to the Dean of COGS. The Dean of COGS will review the recommendation for dismissal and, if appropriate, will convene a committee of graduate faculty to review the dismissal recommendation. The student, the major professor, and the program's administrator will be allowed to appear before the committee. The committee will make a recommendation for action to the Dean of COGS who will make the final decision. Dismissal is from the student's degree, program, and from COGS.

D. **Appeals.** Students may appeal the Dean's decision directly to the Graduate Council. No action will appear on the transcript unless recommended by Graduate Council.

8.2.1 Regulation L – Academic Standing, Probation, Disqualification, and Reinstatement

L-8. Academic Standing for Graduate Students. Graduate students are considered to be in good standing when they have a semester and cumulative grade-point average of 3.00 or higher.

L-9. Academic Probation for Graduate Students.

L-9-a. A graduate student is placed on academic probation after any semester or summer session in which a GPA of less than 3.00 is earned in courses placed on the graduate transcript, regardless of the student's cumulative GPA.

L-9-b. Graduate students on academic probation who attain a semester and cumulative grade- point average of 3.0 or higher are automatically removed from academic probation.

L-9-c. Graduate students on academic probation who attain a semester GPA of 3.00 or higher during the next or subsequent semester or summer session after being placed on probation, but whose cumulative GPA is still below a 3.00, will remain on academic probation.

L-10. Academic Disqualification for Graduate Students. A graduate student will be disqualified if a semester GPA of less than 3.00 (regardless of cumulative GPA) is earned on courses placed on the graduate transcript during the second, consecutive semester or summer session.

L-11 Academic Reinstatement for Graduate Students

L-11-a. A graduate student may be reinstated after disqualification under the following conditions: the student may not enroll as a graduate student for at least one semester (fall or spring), must get the positive recommendation of his or her program's administrator, and must gain approval from the College of Graduate Studies.

L-11-b. Reinstatement is granted for a specific semester only and the student must enroll in that semester.

L-11-c. The student must receive a term GPA of at least 3.0 the first semester back in the College of Graduate Studies.

L-11-d. A reinstated student will be placed on probation if their cumulative GPA is below a 3.00.

L-11-e. A reinstated student will be disqualified after the second consecutive term where a
3.0 GPA was not achieved (see L-10).

L-12. Regulation L does not apply to law students. See the College of Law Announcement for information for law students.

9 Program Requirements for Non-Thesis Students

Non-thesis programs differ in several ways from thesis programs. Below are summaries of some of those differences from thesis-based processes.

9.1 Master of Natural Resource MNR

The curricular requirements for the MNR program can be found at MNR course requirements. (Click Here) The MNR online program does not require a study plan unless students are transferring credits. The students have a single advisor, and no committee is required. The MNR requires a final portfolio, and the final portfolios are not submitted to COGS. A core group of faculty from the MNR are responsible for overseeing the program. All academic forms are signed by the MNR Director.
The MNR program requires 2 credits of NR 599 Non-thesis Research. The NR 599 course must be passed with a grade of "B" or higher for students to graduate from the program. The Non-thesis Portfolio is intended to be a capstone experience where information and skills built during the student's tenure at the University of Idaho are brought together in a synthesizing experience. For students in the EESC track, please refer to guidelines from MOSS.

Comprehensive Portfolio. Students will select assignments from their coursework that demonstrate achievement of each of the MNR SLOs shown below. Each SLO will be the title of a chapter, which will include the actual assignment along with a 1-page description of how the assignment helped the student achieve that specific SLO. Each SLO must have a uniquely representative assignment. A minimum of four different UI courses must be drawn from.

The Portfolio will include an introduction (1-3 pages describing the selection of assignments) and a Discussion, comprised of 3-5 pages describing how the MNR program and achievement of the SLOs has influenced the thinking, skills, and career trajectory of the student. Final portfolios will be assessed using a rubric, which is available on the Canvas site for MNR students

MNR Student Learning Outcomes:

Learn and Integrate - Master and integrate information and knowledge from ecological, social, economic and political perspectives – into a systems view of natural resource issues.
Think and Create - Synthesize ideas and information to identify, analyze and problem-solve natural resource issues; demonstrate an application of this synthesis.
Communicate - Demonstrate oral, written and visual techniques to communicate complex natural resource ideas.
Clarify Purpose and Perspective - Understand diverse viewpoints and perspectives and apply these to the natural resources professions; demonstrate reflection and expanded understanding as applied to one's professional goals.
Practice Citizenship - Define and apply sustainable stewardship and/or management of natural resources as an ethical, socially responsible practice; understand ethical dilemmas and make ethical choices.

9.2 MS Non-Thesis Environmental Science

The curricular requirements for the non-thesis ENVS MS degree are outlined on the program's website. Students are assigned a single advisor upon admission, must find a mentor (new major professor) to oversee their final project, and do not require a committee. They must submit a study plan and complete a final project, which follows program-specific guidelines available in the ENVS Canvas Site. Final projects are not submitted to COGS. All academic forms must be signed by the Environmental Science Director.

The program includes a three-credit requirement for ENVS 5990: Non-Thesis Research Project. One credit is typically taken early in the program to help students explore potential faculty mentors, draft a project proposal, and understand project expectations. The remaining two credits are completed over one to two semesters at the end of the program. Detailed project guidelines are available on the ENVS Canvas Site.

Students will work with their major professor to construct the project in one of the following four ways:

(1) Research Paper
(2) Hands-on-Project
(3) Grant Proposal
(4) Synthesis Paper

The ENVS 5990 Guidelines found on the internal website or in Canvas outline each option in more explicit detail.

9.3 MS Non-Thesis in Natural Resources

General information on master's curricular requirements can be found under the COGS Student Resources Study Plan section. The students have a single advisor, and no committee is required. The completion of an agreed-upon project and/or professional paper is required for the non-thesis option. The project could include (but is not limited to) management plans, contributions to a larger synthesis, poster presentations, reports, or conference papers. The study plan is to be jointly developed by the student and the major professor. It may be necessary to take more than the minimum number of credit hours to attain educational objectives, to meet prerequisite requirements for other courses, or to satisfy deficiencies within a field of study. Final projects are not submitted to COGS.

9.4 Switching between programs

If a student would like to switch from thesis to non-thesis (or vice versa), he/she should discuss this process with their major advisor and/or the CNR Graduate Studies office. Switching from a non-thesis to a thesis would require approval from a faculty member willing to become your major professor. Students will use the second page of the Change of Curriculum form found on the Registrar's Forms page and route to the appropriate administrator.

10 Certificates and Non-Degree Seeking Students

Individuals that seek to take graduate courses for professional development and do not want to complete am MNR, MS, or PhD degree, have the opportunity to take courses towards a graduate certificate or pursue their studies as non-degree seeking students. Students can also add a certificate to their degree program. In each case, applications for graduate certificates are made through Graduate Admissions Click Here.

CNR students are limited to 6 transfer credits toward graduate certificates.
Within CNR, there are three certificate programs. They include the graduate certificates in Environmental Education and Science Communication (EESC), Fire Ecology, Management, and Technology, and Remote Sensing of the Environment. The 14-credit graduate certificate in EESC is available only for graduate students who are resident at the McCall Campus. The requirements for the certificate can be found in the UI Course Catalog under Natural Resources (M.N.R.) EESC certificate Click Here. The 15-credit graduate certificate in Fire Ecology, Management and Technology is available via either online delivery or for on-campus students. Curriculum requirements can be found in the UI Course Catalog under Fire Ecology, Management and Technology Graduate Academic Certificate Click Here. The 14-credit graduate certificate for Remote Sensing of the Environment is available for on-campus students. The curriculum requirements for the Remote Sensing of the Environment can be found in the UI Catalog Click Here.

10.1 Graduate Academic Certificates

1. A graduate academic certificate must include at least 12 credits of coursework. At least half of the credits completed towards a graduate academic certificate must be in graduate level coursework.
2. All required coursework must be completed with a **grade of 'B' or better unless the certificate specifies a higher-grade requirement.**
3. A maximum of six credits of coursework which is either transferred from another regionally accredited institution or is more than five years old at the time of graduation may be used towards completion of an academic certificate.

11 Additional Important Considerations for Graduate Students

11.1 Safety

The CNR Graduate Studies Office is always willing to help you get the support you need. We listen, provide advice, and help resolve some advisor-student conflicts. We keep conversations private, but are required to report some details to the relevant agencies within and external to the University.

Harassment: Graduate students are expected to treat their students, peers, professors, and other colleagues in the university workplace respectfully at all times. By the same token, you are also entitled to respectful behavior on the part of your coworkers. “Harassment” in the workplace is often defined in sexual terms. However, harassment in a broader sense can also take the form of teasing, insults and other hostile or harsh speech, crude gestures, or otherwise

acting toward another person in an extremely objectionable or humiliating manner, even when that behavior lacks a sexual context.

Prohibited harassment includes not only sexual harassment but also harassment based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or status as a war veteran. The University of Idaho Faculty and Staff Handbook Sexual Harassment Policy 3220 https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/3/3220 defines sexual harassment as "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual behaviors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." Such conduct is deemed especially deplorable when it occurs in a relationship where there is a significant power differential, such as harassment of a student by an instructor, "…creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment," or interfering with a student's education. Under no circumstances should a graduate student engage in behavior that might be construed as harassment, sexual or otherwise.

The University of Idaho has a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, disability or status as a Vietnam era veteran. This policy applies to all programs, services, and facilities, and includes, but is not limited to, applications, admissions, access to programs and services, and employment.

Antidiscrimination Policy:
https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/3/3210
If you feel you have been harassed, discriminated against, or are aware of a possible violation of the University's harassment policy, you are required to make a report to The Office of Civil Rights and Investigations (OCRI) Click Here. If a student is involved, employees are required to make a report to the Office of the Dean of Students click here.

To report any concerns of public safety and security contact the Office of Public Safety and Security:

Public Safety and Campus Security: https://uidaho.edu/infrastructure/pss

In case of an emergency, call 911.

Table 11.1 Additional Safety Resources

Resource	Phone
Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse*	208-883-4357
ASUI Representative	208-885-6583
Counseling Center*	208-885-6716
Dean of Students	208-885-6757
Gritman Medical Ctr.*	208-882-4511
Latah County Sheriff	208-882- 2216
Legal Aid Clinic*	208-885-6541
Moscow Police	208-882-2677
OCRI/Title IX Coord	208-885- 4285

Ombuds*	208-885-7668
Safe Walk	208-874-7550
Student Health*	208-885-6693

*Confidential Resource: Confidential reporting locations do not disclose the information shared to the university, the police or anyone else without permission or as required by law (e.g., child abuse, imminent threat of harm).

Note: Gritman Medical Center and ATVP will contact the police, but it is your decision if you want to speak with an agency representative.

11.2 Laboratory Safety and Responsible Conduct of Research

Please see the CNR lab guideline website Click Here for information on laboratory safety and responsible code of conduct. This site provides information and links that are relevant to workplace safety, general laboratory safety, general chemical safety, waste management, and access. Additionally, this site provides an overview of the Office of Research and Econimic Development (ORED) and provides links for the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Animal Care and Use (IACUC), Biosafety, Unmanned Aircraft systems, responsible conduct of research, and export controls: https://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/student-resources/research/before-starting All students participating in research should be familiar with Copyrights, Protectable Discoveries, and other Intellectual Property Rights https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/5/5300. Additional information can be found at: Responsible Conduct of Research.

11.3 Professional Conduct and Ethics, and the Student Code of Conduct

As graduate students and professional scholars-in-training, you are expected to exercise high standards of ethical and professional behavior toward your peers and your professors. Science can only make progress if individual scientists are truthful and trustworthy. As academic professionals and members of the larger community of scientists, graduate students should practice intellectual honesty at all times. You should exercise scholarly discipline and good critical skills, while engaging in civil, collegial discussion of scientific and professional matters. Ideally, scientific professionals should strive to be objective and fair in their criticism and discussion of colleagues' work.

Graduate students must adhere to the University of Idaho Student Code of Conduct: https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/2/2300. The Code of Conduct does not interfere with any of your constitutional rights. In particular, freedom of speech and expression are encouraged. However, all graduate students must ensure that any statements they make regarding their research or other research conducted at the University is truthful, accurate, and that appropriate credit is given.
Deliberately making false statements will lead to disciplinary action by your department chair and potential referral to the Dean of Students. Graduate students must never engage in, permit or otherwise support professional misconduct, including plagiarism, falsification of information, or deception of any kind. Each of us is obligated to report any professional misconduct of a student to the Dean of Students.

Academic Honesty: As stated above, graduate students are expected to uphold high standards of intellectual and academic honesty at all times, and to enforce university and departmental standards for academic honesty. This is true particularly when it comes to your own academic and scientific work and the work of your students. The University Faculty and Staff Handbook states that "cheating on classroom or outside assignments, examinations or tests is a violation of [the academic honesty] code. Plagiarism, falsification of academic records, and the acquisition or use of test materials without faculty authorization are considered forms of academic dishonesty…" Should you encounter academic dishonesty on the part of one of your students, you should immediately bring it to the attention of your teaching supervisor. Other instances should be discussed with your major professor or the Department Chair.

Artificial Intelligence and Research: Chat GPT (generative pre-trained transformer) uses open-source artificial intelligence (AI) to generate language, conversation, and code based on large amounts of training data. ChatGPT can generate essays, poems, conduct web-based searches, engage in conversation, generate code etc. Concerns include displacement of human creativity, plagiarism, generation of misinformation and harmful content.

The University of Idaho Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) has developed AI Guidelines for Teaching and Learning. It is the course instructor's decision whether to allow the use of AI in the classroom or not; expectations for acceptable use will be communicated in the course syllabus. Students are also encouraged to ask instructors to clarify expectations if needed. University of Idaho policy prevents students from submitting AI-generated materials as their own. Use of AI must be declared and properly cited (for example, the MLA approach is described here: https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/).

11.4 Conflict Resolution

The CNR Office of Graduate Studies provides assistance for the resolution of conflicts between a graduate student and his/her faculty advisor or guidance committee.
Although each case is unique, the most common type of conflict is a student-advisor relationship breakdown. In many cases there are amicable separations, while in some cases direct action is required.

If a student has a concern, they are encouraged to contact the DGS, who will then begin actions to help address and/or reduce the conflicts. Those actions may include referrals to other university offices as appropriate. If the student's major professor is the CNR DGS, the CNR Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs should be contacted. If you wish to discuss concerns prior to meeting with the CNR Graduate Studies Office, we encourage you to reach out to the University Ombuds Office.

Ombuds provide confidential, impartial and informal assistance to individuals and groups to help prevent problems from arising and to facilitate fair and respectful resolution of problems that do arise. Ombuds do not advocate on behalf of specific individuals or their concerns and they cannot change or reverse decisions; however, they do advocate for respectful, fair and equitable treatment. Ombuds serve as information and referral resources, facilitate

communication between individuals and among groups. They offer conflict coaching aimed at helping individuals to better manage their own disputes and provide dispute resolution services, such as mediation. The Ombuds Office also recommends constructive changes to university policies and procedures by providing anonymous feedback on systemic issues that promote clarity and fairness.

Additional information can be found at Information can be found in the "Removal of Faculty from a committee" section of the catalog (click here). If it is determined that a separation should occur, it is important for students to know that not all faculty at the University of Idaho are eligible to serve as a major professor. The guidelines for faculty eligibility to serve as major professors are described in detail in the Faculty Staff Handbook section 1700: https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/1/1700.

11.5 Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment

A conflict of interest refers to an individual's involvement in activities in which financial or other personal considerations may directly and significantly affect an employee's professional judgement in exercising any university duty or responsibility. FSH 6240 is the policy that governs conflicts of interest or commitment for official university purposes. The full text for conflicts of interest can be accessed at:

- https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/5/5600
- http://uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/6/6240

If during the course of a graduate program the major professor/committee member and/or graduate student relationship changes to that considered a conflict of interest (such as, becoming an in-law, business partner, team coach, financial advisor, etc.) then the major professor/committee member should remove themselves from the graduate students' committee.

It is University of Idaho policy that **no employee shall enter into, or continue a romantic or sexual relationship, with a student or employee over whom she or he exercises academic, administrative, supervisory, evaluative, counseling or other authority.**
The full policy can be read at: https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/3/3205

In the event an apparent conflict of interest or commitment between a graduate student and his or her major professor and/or graduate student committee is brought to the attention of the CNR Graduate Studies Office, the case will be directly referred to OCRI, Dean of Students, Dean of COGS, CNR Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs, etc., as appropriate.

11.6 Publication, Copyright, and Ownership of Data

Students are expected to actively participate in the dissemination of research results via publications and/or presentations of papers at professional meetings. Some major professors require this of their graduate students. Generally, UI faculty, staff, and students shall retain all rights to copyright and publish works produced by them. Section 5300 of the University of Idaho Faculty-Staff Handbook states the policy in detail. All records from research funded by the

university and funded by external grants through the university (reports, photographs, data, etc.) are the property of the University of Idaho and cooperating research sponsors. This information must remain with the university. Students are permitted access to and may have copies of this information. Additional information can be found on the Office of Technology Transfer website Click Here.

11.7 Graduate Student Employee Policies

The teaching and research of the College is accomplished through the efforts of the faculty and graduate assistants. Graduate students are often compensated for teaching or conducting research through "assistantships." Teaching and research assistantships are often awarded on a competitive basis. If a student begins a program of study for the MS or PhD without funding, the student is expected, with assistance from the major professor, to seek funds for research projects.

Information on graduate assistant employment can be found in the catalog in the "Assistantships and Research Fellowships" section (Click Here) and on the COGS Graduate Assistants website (Click Here). Graduate students at the University of Idaho are considered employees and thus should refer to the Faculty Staff Handbook (https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/3 and other sections of this handbook. Currently the College of Natural Resources has no specific policies relating to graduate assistant personal leave, leave to attend professional meetings, use of unit resources such as computers, offices, copy-machines, office supplies, mailboxes and telephones. In each of these instances, we defer to the discretion of the project Principal Investigator/Department Chair and/or the Faculty Staff Handbook https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/fsh/3, as appropriate.

12 Student Learning Outcomes by Program

12.1 Natural Resources – MS (NRS, FRFS, and FWS)

1. Graduates will be able to conduct innovative and high-quality research in natural resources by:
    a. Demonstrating a fundamental to disciplinary knowledge and principles
    b. Identifying knowledge gaps and/or management challenges, designing and proposing a research project, analyzing data, and interpreting results
2. Communicate effectively in written and oral formats
3. Exhibit practices and behaviors conducive to developing a career in NR science and management understanding the scientific method of how it applies
4. Communicate broadly to a diversity of audiences

12.2 Natural Resources – PhD (NRS, FRFS, and FWS)

1. Graduates will be able to conduct innovative and high-quality research in natural resources by:
    a. Demonstrating advanced and independent mastery understanding the scientific method of how it applies of disciplinary knowledge and principles.

   b. identifying knowledge gaps and/or management challenges, designing and proposing a research project with an original problem statement, analyzing data, and interpreting results
2. Effectively communicate in peer-reviewed contexts or diversity of audiences
3. Exhibit practices and behaviors conducive to developing a career in NR science and management

12.3 Environmental Science – MS Thesis & Non-Thesis

1. Student will be able to demonstrate advanced skill to design interdisciplinary research and analysis for environmental problem-solving.
2. Student will be able to apply mastery of key principles and core concepts in environmental science with a depth of knowledge in either physical, biological, or social sciences.
3. Student will be able to collaborate with a faculty advisor and graduate committee to implement interdisciplinary research.
4. Student will be able to communicate effectively, professionally, and within group settings.

12.4 Environmental Science – PhD

1. Student will be able to collaborate with a faculty advisor and graduate committee to implement innovative and novel interdisciplinary scholarship.
2. Student will be able to demonstrate advanced and independent mastery of key principles and core concepts in environmental science with a depth of knowledge in either physical, biological, or social sciences.
3. Student will be able to think critically and apply analytical frameworks to understand the cultural, social, political, and economic ramifications of environmental problem-solving.
4. Student will be able to demonstrate advanced effectiveness and professionalism in communications as an individual and within team settings.

12.5 Master of Natural Resources - Fire Ecology & Management

1. The student will master and integrate information and knowledge from ecological, social, economic, and political perspectives – into a systems view of fire ecology and management issues.
2. The student will be able to synthesize ideas and information to identify, analyze and problem-solve fire ecology and management issues; demonstrate an application of this synthesis.
3. The student will be able to demonstrate oral, written and visual techniques to communicate complex natural resource ideas with relevance to fire ecology and management.
4. The student will understand diverse viewpoints and perspectives and apply these to the fire ecology and management; demonstrate reflection and expanded understanding as applied to one's professional goals.

5. The student will be able to define and apply sustainable stewardship and/or management of wildland fire and natural resources as an ethical, socially responsible practice; understand ethical dilemmas and make ethical choices.

12.6 Master of Natural Resources - Restoration Ecology & Habitat Management

1. The student will master and integrate information and knowledge from ecological, social, economic and political perspectives – into a systems view of restoration ecology and habitat management issues.
2. The student will be able to synthesize ideas and information to identify, analyze and problem-solve restoration ecology and habitat management issues; demonstrate an application of this synthesis.
3. The student will be able to demonstrate oral, written and visual techniques to communicate complex natural resource ideas with relevance to restoration ecology and habitat management.
4. The student will understand diverse viewpoints and perspectives and apply these to restoration ecology and habitat management; demonstrate reflection and expanded understanding as applied to one's professional goals.
5. The student will be able to define and apply sustainable stewardship and/or management of natural resources and wildlife habitat as an ethical, socially responsible practice; understand ethical dilemmas and make ethical choices.

12.7 Master of Natural Resources - Fish & Wildlife Science & Management

1. The student will master and integrate information and knowledge from ecological, social, economic and political perspectives – into a systems view of fish and wildlife science and management issues.
2. The student will be able to synthesize ideas and information to identify, analyze and problem-solve fish and wildlife science and management issues; demonstrate an application of this synthesis.
3. The student will be able to demonstrate oral, written and visual techniques to communicate complex natural resource ideas with relevance to fish and wildlife science and management.
4. The student will understand diverse viewpoints and perspectives and apply these to fish and wildlife science and management; demonstrate reflection and expanded understanding as applied to one's professional goals.
5. The student will be able to define and apply sustainable stewardship and/or management of natural resources, fisheries, and wildlife habitat as an ethical, socially responsible practice; understand ethical dilemmas and make ethical choices.

12.8 Master of Natural Resources - Integrated Natural Resources

1. The student will master and integrate information and knowledge from ecological, social, economic and political perspectives – into a systems view of natural resource issues.

2. The student will be able to synthesize ideas and information to identify, analyze and problem-solve natural resource issues; demonstrate an application of this synthesis.
3. The student will be able to demonstrate oral, written, and visual techniques to communicate complex natural resource ideas.
4. The student will understand diverse viewpoints and perspectives and apply these to the natural resource professions; demonstrate reflection and expanded understanding as applied to one's professional goals.
5. The student will be able to define and apply sustainable stewardship and/or management of natural resources as an ethical, socially responsible practice; understand ethical dilemmas and make ethical choices.

13 Curriculum Requirements by Department and Program

13.1 Department of Natural Resources and Society

13.1.1 NRS MS in Natural Resources

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 30 credits are required for the MS degree in Natural Resources in the Natural Resources and Society Department. 30 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement MS Natural Resources NRS
3	**3**	☐ NRS 5060 Fundamentals of Research
3	**3**	☐ NRS 5080 Foundations of Natural Resources & Society
Max 10	**Max 10**	☐ Maximum 10 credits 5000 Thesis Research Credits
TBD	**TBD**	☐ Courses determined with graduate advisory committee
		Final Thesis Defense Required
30	**30**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 12 non-degree credits, transfer credits, credit share, correspondence credits, and approved credits more than eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for master's programs requiring 36 or fewer credits.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 18 credits must be at the 5000 level.
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits.
- ☐ Up to five credits of 5990 (non-thesis master's research) are allowed on a thesis study plan.

13.1.2 NRS PhD in Natural Resources

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 78 credits are required for the PhD degree in Natural Resources in the Natural Resources and Society Department. 78 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement PhD in Natural Resources NRS
3	**3**	☐ NRS 5060 Fundamentals of Research
3	**3**	☐ NRS 5080 Foundations of Natural Resources & Society
Max 45	**Max 45**	☐ Maximum 45 credits 6000 Dissertation Research Credits
TBD	**TBD**	☐ Courses determined with graduate advisory committee
		Final Dissertation Defense Required
78	**78**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ No more than 30 approved credits over eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for doctoral program.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 39 non-degree credits, transfer, or independent study credits can be accepted for doctoral program.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 52 credits must be at the 5000 level (no more than 6 thesis or non-thesis research credits).
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ Up to six credits of 5000/5990 (master's research thesis/non-thesis master's research) may be applied towards the 45-credit maximum 6000.

13.2 Department of Forestry, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences Requirements

13.2.1 FRFS MS in Natural Resources

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 30 credits are required for the MS degree in Natural Resources in the Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences Department. 30 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement MS Natural Resources FRFS
3	**3**	☐ Quantitative course 4000-level or above (as determined by the graduate advisory committee)
2	**2**	☐ 5010 Seminar (at least one from FRFS, determined by the graduate advisory committee)
Max 10	**Max 10**	☐ Maximum 10 credits 5000 Thesis Research Credits
TBD	**TBD**	☐ Courses determined with graduate advisory committee
		Final Thesis Defense Required
30	**30**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 12 non-degree credits, transfer credits, credit share, correspondence credits, and approved credits more than eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for master's programs requiring 36 or fewer credits.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 18 credits must be at the 5000 level.
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ Up to five credits of 5990 (non-thesis master's research) are allowed on a thesis study plan.

13.2.2 FRFS PhD of Natural Resources

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 78 credits are required for the PhD degree in Natural Resources in the Forestry, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences Department. 78 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement PhD Natural Resources FRFS
3	**3**	☐ Quantitative course 4000-level or above (as determined by the graduate advisory committee)
3	**3**	☐ Seminar; minimum one from FRFS
Max 45	**Max 45**	☐ Maximum 45 credits 6000 Dissertation Research Credits
TBD	**TBD**	☐ Courses determined with graduate advisory committee
		Final Thesis Defense Required
78	**78**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ No more than 30 approved credits over eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for doctoral program.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 39 non-degree credits, transfer, or independent study credits can be accepted for doctoral program.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 52 credits must be at the 5000 level (no more than 6 thesis or non-thesis research credits).
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ Up to six credits of 5000/5990 (master's research thesis/non-thesis master's research) may be applied towards the 45-credit maximum 6000.

13.3 Department of Fish & Wildlife Sciences Requirements

13.3.1 FWS MS in Natural Resources

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 30 credits are required for the MS degree in Natural Resources in the Fish and Wildlife Science Department. 30 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement MS Natural Resources FWS
1	**1**	☐ FISH or WLF 5010 Seminar
1	**1**	☐ WLF 5060 External Speakers
Max 10	**Max 10**	☐ Maximum 10 credits 5000 Thesis Research Credits
TBD	**TBD**	☐ Courses determined with graduate advisory committee
		Final Thesis Defense Required
30	**30**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 12 non-degree credits, transfer credits, credit share, correspondence credits, and approved credits more than eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for master's programs requiring 36 or fewer credits.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 18 credits must be at the 5000 level.
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ Up to five credits of 5990 (non-thesis master's research) are allowed on a thesis study plan.

13.3.2 FWS PhD of Natural Resources

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 78 credits are required for the PhD degree in Natural Resources in the Fish and Wildlife Sciences Department. 78 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement PhD Natural Resources FWS
1	**1**	☐ FISH or WLF 5010 Seminar
1	**1**	☐ WLF 5060 External Speakers
Max 45	**Max 45**	☐ Maximum 45 credits 6000 Dissertation Research Credits
TBD	**TBD**	☐ Courses determined with graduate advisory committee
		Final Thesis Defense Required
78	**78**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ No more than 30 approved credits over eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for doctoral program.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 39 non-degree credits, transfer, or independent study credits can be accepted for doctoral program.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 52 credits must be at the 5000 level (no more than 6 thesis or non-thesis research credits).
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ Up to six credits of 5000/5990 (master's research thesis/non-thesis master's research) may be applied towards the 45-credit maximum 6000.

13.4 Environmental Science Program

13.4.1 ENVS MS with Thesis

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 30 credits are required for the MS degree in the Environmental Science Program. 30 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement MS in Environmental Science
12	**12**	☐ Depth area: Biological, Physical, or Social Science with Major Professor and advisory committee
6	**6**	☐ Breadth area: 3 credits from each non-depth area with Major Professor and advisory committee
2	**2**	☐ ENVS 5010 Seminar
3	**3**	☐ 5000-level research methods or statistics
6	**6**	☐ Minimum 6 and maximum 10 credits 5000 Thesis Research Credits
		Final Thesis Defense Required
30	**30**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 12 non-degree credits, transfer credits, credit share, correspondence credits, and approved credits more than eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for master's programs requiring 36 or fewer credits.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 21 credits must be at the 5000 level.
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ Up to five credits of 5990 (non-thesis master's research) are allowed on a thesis study plan.

13.4.2 ENVS MS Non-Thesis

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 30 credits are required for the MS degree in the Environmental Science Program. 30 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement MS in Environmental Science
15	**15**	☐ Depth area: Biological, Physical, or Social Science
6	**6**	☐ Breadth area: 3 credits from each non-depth area
2	**2**	☐ ENVS 5010 Seminar
3	**3**	☐ 5000-level research methods or statistics
1	**1**	☐ Elective credit
3	**3**	☐ Minimum 3 and maximum 5 credits 5990 Non-Thesis Research Credits
		Final Project with Faculty Mentor Required
30	**30**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 12 non-degree credits, transfer credits, credit share, correspondence credits, and approved credits more than eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for master's programs requiring 36 or fewer credits.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 21 credits must be at the 5000 level.
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ 5000 Thesis Research credits are **not allowable** on non-thesis study plans. Must submit academic petition.

13.4.3 ENVS PhD

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 78 credits are required for the PhD degree in the Environmental Science Program. 78 credits should be entered in the Study Plan.

Off Campus Student # Credits	On Campus Student # Credits	Requirement PhD in Environmental Science
2	**2**	☐ ENVS 5010 Seminar
3	**3**	☐ 5000 research methods or statistics
6	**6**	☐ 3 credits in each non-depth area
Max 45	**Max 45**	☐ Maximum 45 credits 6000 Dissertation Research Credits
TBD	**TBD**	☐ Courses determined with graduate advisory committee
		Final Dissertation Defense Required
78	**78**	MINIMUM CREDITS

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ No more than 30 approved credits over eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for doctoral program.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 39 non-degree credits, transfer, or independent study credits can be accepted for doctoral program.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 52 credits must be at the 5000 level (no more than 6 thesis or non-thesis research credits).
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ Up to six credits of 5000/5990 (master's research thesis/non-thesis master's research) may be applied towards the 45-credit maximum 6000.

13.5 Master of Natural Resources Program (MNR)

13.5.1 MNR – Environmental Education & Science Communication

General university guidelines require:

- ☐ 32 credits are required for the MNR degree in Environmental Education and Science Communication. Changes in course work should be approved through submission of a Study Plan, otherwise no study plan submission is required.

Credits	MNR Environmental Education and Science Communication Option - McCall Field Campus Only
2	NRS 501
6	Human Dimensions
8	Ecology & Management
6	Tools & Technology
4	Case Study Project
32	**TOTAL CREDITS**

- ☐ Grade of 'C' or better is required in all courses used to meet degree requirements.
- ☐ Cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses, whether or not they are used toward the degree.
- ☐ Combined total of up to 12 non-degree credits, transfer credits, credit share, correspondence credits, and approved credits more than eight years old at the time the degree is awarded can be accepted for master's programs requiring 36 or fewer credits.
- ☐ Credits earned at an institution that does not grant graduate degrees cannot be transferred to the UI for graduate credit.

Additional Natural Resources Information:

- ☐ At least 18 credits must be at the 5000 level.
- ☐ 4000 level and 3000 level courses can be used toward the degree; however, the 3000 level credits must be from outside the major area.
- ☐ No more than 3 workshop credits (4030 or 5030).
- ☐ 5000 Thesis Research credits are **not allowable** on non-thesis study plans. Must submit academic petition.

University of Idaho
Master of Natural Resources

Master of Natural Resources:
Fire Ecology & Management Option

Program Overview

The Master of Natural Resources (MNR) is an interdisciplinary course-based graduate program designed for current and aspiring professionals who wish to enhance their educational credentials for a career in natural resources. The Fire Ecology and Management Option provides depth to address wildfire management challenges facing society. Completing this option will help students advance their professional careers in wildland fire management, fuels management, restoration, and conservation. The degree also reinforces fundamentals in applied ecology, natural resources management, communications, and other career-advancing knowledge and skills.

Fire Science & Management Core+

14 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
FIRE 4451	Fuels Inventory & Monitoring	3	Spring	
FIRE 5326	Fire Ecology	3	Fall / Summer	
FIRE 5484	Wildland Fire Policy	2	Spring	
FIRE 5490	Advanced Fire Behavior	3	Fall	
FOR 5900	Science Synthesis & Communication	3	Spring	

Tools & Technology+

4 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5110	Data Wizardry for Environmental Science	3	Summer	
FIRE 4407	GIS Applications in Fire Ecology & Mgmt	3	Spring	
FIRE 5410*	Air Quality, Pollution, & Smoke	3	Summer	
GEOG 5250	Graduate GIS Fundamentals	3	Fall / Summer	
GEOG 5830	Remote Sensing/GIS Image Analysis	3	Spring	
GEOG 5930	Geovisualization	3	Fall / Summer	
NRS 5800	Restoration Ecology Practicum	2	Summer	
NRS 5920	Emerging Media Outreach in NR	3	Summer	
REM 5070*	Landscape & Habitat Dynamics	3	Fall, odd years	
REM 5200	Adv Vegetation Monitoring & Measurement	3	Fall	
SOIL/ENVS 4500*	Environmental Hydrology	3	Spring	
WLF 5550	Statistical Ecology	3	Spring	

Master of Natural Resources: Fire Ecology & Management

Ecology & Management+

3 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
FIRE 4100	Fire Effects & Management	3	Fall	
FISH 5260	Climate Effects & Conservation Mgmt	2	Fall, odd years	
FISH 5400	Wetland Restoration	3	Summer	
FOR 5010	Seminar: Current Issues	1	Fall / Spring	
FOR 5130	Mountain Ecology	3	Fall / Summer	
FOR 5160	Hydrologic Effects of Forest Management	1	Spring	
GEOG 5170	Tree Rings & Environmental Change	3	Fall	
REM 4290	Landscape Ecology	3	Spring	
REM 4400	Restoration Ecology	3	Spring	
REM 4590	Rangeland Ecology	3	Fall	
REM 5070*	Landscape & Habitat Dynamics	3	Fall, odd years	
SOIL/ENVS 4500*	Environmental Hydrology	3	Spring	
WLF 4400	Conservation Biology	3	Fall / Summer	
WLF 5060	Fish & Wildlife External Speaker Seminar	1	Spring / Summer	
WLF 5110	Wildland Habitat Ecology & Assessment	2	Fall	

Policy, Planning, & Society+

6 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5230	Planning Sustainable Places	3	Fall	
ENVS 5480	Drinking Water & Human Health	3	Spring	
ENVS 5770	Law, Ethics, & the Environment	3	Spring	
FIRE 5410*	Air Quality, Pollution, & Smoke	3	Summer	
FOR 5300	Natural Resource Policy Development	3	Fall	
FS 5360	Principles of Sustainability	3	Fall / Spring	
GEOG 5130	Global Climate Change	3	Fall	
GEOG 5350	Climate Change Mitigation	3	Fall	
NRS 5010	Seminar	1	Fall / Spring	
NRS 5070	Moral Reasoning in Natural Resources	3	Summer	
NRS 5550	Human Dimensions of Natural Resources	3	Spring	
NRS 5740	Environmental Politics & Policy	3	Fall / Summer	
NRS 5760	Env Project Mgmt & Decision Making	2	Spring	
NRS 5880	NEPA in Policy & Practice	3	Summer	

Additional Requirements+

4 CREDITS

COURSE	CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
Electives or additional courses to add up to 28 plus	2	Various	
NR 5990 Non-Thesis Master's Research - Final Portfolio	2	All	

- *Courses listed in multiple bins only count toward one bin requirement.
- +See course catalog and department website for complete degree requirements and additional information.
- This academic plan is intended as a guideline only and does not replace academic advising.

- 30 credits minimum are required for a Master of Natural Resources.
- Minimum of 18 credits numbered 5000 or above are required to graduate.
- Up to 12 semester credits of graduate level work can be transferred into the program from other institutions.

University of Idaho
Master of Natural Resources

Current Curriculum

University of Idaho
Master of Natural Resources

Master of Natural Resources:
Restoration Ecology & Habitat Management

Program Overview

The online Master of Natural Resources in Restoration Ecology and Habitat Management (REHM) will prepare you for careers anywhere across the globe where a deep understanding of ecological theory and practice are needed to restore and manage working forests and rangelands, conserved wildlands, and wildlife habitats. The REHM curriculum is designed to give you the tools needed to employ conservation principles to a wide variety of restoration challenges, including restoration and remediation of aquatic, terrestrial, and even atmospheric (air quality) environments.

Restoration Ecology & Habitat Management Core

Note: Summer courses required

16 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5790* NRS 5880*	Introduction to Environmental Regulations **OR** NEPA in Policy & Practice	3	Fall Summer	
FISH 5400* NRS 5800*	Wetland Restoration **OR** Restoration Ecology Practicum	3 2	Summer	
NR 5990	Non-thesis Master's Research - Final Portfolio	2	All	
REM 4400	Restoration Ecology	3	Spring	
REM 5070 REM 4290*	Landscape & Habitat Dynamics **OR** Landscape Ecology	3	Fall, odd years Spring	

Policy, Planning, & Society+

5-6 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5230	Planning Sustainable Places	3	Fall	
ENVS 5480	Drinking Water & Human Health	3	Spring	
ENVS 5790*	Introduction to Environmental Regulations	3	Fall	
FIRE 5484	Wildland Fire Policy	2	Spring	
FOR 5300	Natural Resource Policy Development	3	Fall	
FS 5360	Principles of Sustainability	3	Fall / Spring	
GEOG 5130	Global Climate Change	3	Fall	
GEOG 5350*	Climate Change Mitigation	3	Fall	
NRS 5070	Moral Reasoning in Natural Resources	3	Summer	
NRS 5760	Environmental Project Mgmt & Decision Making	2	Spring	
NRS 5880*	NEPA in Policy & Practice	3	Summer	

Master of Natural Resources: Restoration Ecology & Habitat Mgmt

Note: REHM requires Summer courses in the core.

Tools & Technology+

3 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5110	Data Wizardry for Environmental Science	3	Summer	
FIRE 4407	GIS Application in Fire Ecology & Mgmt	3	Spring	
FIRE 4451	Fuels Inventory & Monitoring	3	Spring	
GEOG 5240	Hydrologic Apps of GIS & Remote Sensing	3	Fall	
GEOG 5250	Graduate GIS Fundamentals	3	Fall / Summer	
GEOG 5350*	Climate Change Mitigation	3	Fall	
GEOG 5830	Remote Sensing/GIS Image Analysis	3	Spring	
GEOG 5930	Geovisualization	3	Fall / Summer	
NRS 5920	Emerging Media Outreach in Natural Resources	3	Summer	
PLSC 4190	Plant Community Restoration Methods	2	Spring	
REM 4100 REM 5200	Principles of Veg Monitoring & Measurement **OR** Adv Vegetation Monitoring & Measurement	3	Fall	
SOIL/ENVS 4500	Environmental Hydrology	3	Spring	
WLF 5400	Conservation Genetics	3	Summer	
WLF 5550	Statistical Ecology	3	Spring	
WLF 5610	Landscape Genetics	2	Spring, even years	

Ecology & Management+

5-6 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
FIRE 4100	Fire Effects & Management	3	Fall	
FIRE 5326	Fire Ecology	3	Fall / Summer	
FISH 5150	Large River Fisheries	2	Fall, odd years	
FISH 5250	Aquaculture in Relation to Wild Fish Pops	2	Fall, even years	
FISH 5350	Limnology	4	Fall	
FISH 5400*	Wetland Restoration	3	Summer	
FOR 5130	Mountain Ecology	3	Fall / Summer	
FOR 5160	Hydrologic Effects of Forest Management	1	Spring	
NRS 5800*	Restoration Ecology Practicum	2	Summer	
REM 4290*	Landscape Ecology	3	Spring	
REM 4560	Integrated Rangeland Management	3	Spring	
REM 4590	Rangeland Ecology	3	Fall	
SOIL 4220	Environmental Soil Chemistry	3	Fall, odd years	
SOIL 4460	Soil Fertility	3	Spring	
SOIL/ENVS 5440	Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest	3	Fall	
WLF 4400	Conservation Biology	3	Fall / Summer	
WLF 5110	Wildland Habitat Ecology & Assessment	2	Fall	

- *Courses listed in multiple bins only count toward one bin requirement.
- This academic plan is intended as a guideline only and does not replace academic advising.
- +See course catalog and department website for complete degree requirements and additional information.

- 30 credits minimum are required for a Master of Natural Resources.
- Minimum of 18 credits numbered 5000 or above are required to graduate.
- Up to 12 semester credits of graduate level work can be transferred into the program from other institutions.

University of Idaho
Master of Natural Resources

Current Curriculum:

University of Idaho
Master of Natural Resources

Master of Natural Resources:
Integrated Natural Resources

Program Overview

Managing natural resources is a challenging and deeply rewarding career path, attractive to scientists, recreationists and hunters, and conservationists alike. The fundamental objective of the Integrated Natural Resources MNR program is to integrate and scale various perspectives – ecological, human dimensions, planning, policy and law, and practical tools – into a broad and practical view of natural resources. This unique professional degree is accessible to students of diverse academic backgrounds and will help graduates develop credentials and skills to engage in effective, adaptive conservation of natural resources for the future.

Ecology & Management+

6-7 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5010	Seminar: Environmental Science	1	Fall	
FIRE 4100	Fire Effects & Management	3	Fall	
FIRE 5326	Fire Ecology	3	Fall / Summer	
FISH 5150	Large River Fisheries	2	Fall, odd years	
FISH 5250	Aquaculture in Relation to Wild Fish Pops	2	Fall, even years	
FISH 5260	Climate Effects & Conservation Management	2	Fall, odd years	
FISH 5350	Limnology	4	Fall	
FISH 5400	Wetland Restoration	3	Summer	
FOR 5010	Seminar: Current Issues	1	Fall / Spring	
FOR 5130	Mountain Ecology	3	Fall / Summer	
GEOG 5170*	Tree Rings & Environmental Change	3	Fall	
REM 4290	Landscape Ecology	3	Spring	
REM 4400	Restoration Ecology	3	Spring	
REM 4560	Integrated Rangeland Management	3	Spring	
REM 4590	Rangeland Ecology	3	Fall	
REM 5070*	Landscape & Habitat Dynamics	3	Fall, odd years	
SOIL/ENVS 4500*	Environmental Hydrology	3	Spring	
WLF 4400	Conservation Biology	3	Fall / Summer	
WLF 5060	Fish & Wildlife External Speaker Seminar	1	Spring / Summer	
WLF 5110	Wildland Habitat Ecology & Assessment	2	Fall	
WLF 5120	Wildlife Tracks & Signs I	1	Summer	
WLF 5130	Wildlife Tracks & Signs II	1	Summer	
WLF 5140	Wildlife Tracks & Signs III	1	Summer	
WLF 5750	Behavioral Ecology	2	Spring / Summer	

Master of Natural Resources: Integrated Natural Resources

Policy, Planning, & Society+

6-7 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5200	Introduction to Bioregional Planning	3	Summer	
ENVS 5230	Planning Sustainable Places	3	Fall	
ENVS 5480	Drinking Water & Human Health	3	Spring	
ENVS 5520	Environmental Philosophy	3	Fall / Spring	
ENVS 5770	Law, Ethics, & the Environment	3	Spring	
ENVS 5790	Introduction to Environmental Regulations	3	Fall	
FIRE 5410*	Air Quality, Pollution, & Smoke	3	Summer	
FIRE 5484	Wildland Fire Policy	2	Spring	
FOR 5300	Natural Resource Policy Development	3	Fall	
FOR 5900	Science Synthesis & Communication	3	Spring	
FS 5360	Principles of Sustainability	3	Fall / Spring	
GEOG 4110	Natural Hazards	3	Fall	
GEOG 5130	Global Climate Change	3	Fall	
GEOG 5170*	Tree Rings & Environmental Change	3	Fall	
GEOG 5350	Climate Change Mitigation	3	Fall	
NRS 5010	Seminar	1	Fall / Spring	
NRS 5070	Moral Reasoning in Natural Resources	3	Summer	
NRS 5550	Human Dimensions of Natural Resources	3	Spring	
NRS 5740	Environmental Politics & Policy	3	Fall / Summer	
NRS 5760	Env Project Mgmt & Decision Making	2	Spring	
NRS 5880	NEPA in Policy & Practice	3	Summer	
SOIL/ENVS 5440*	Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest	3	Fall	

Tools & Technology+

6-7 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5110	Data Wizardry for Environmental Science	3	Summer	
FIRE 4407	GIS Applications in Fire Ecology & Mgmt	3	Spring	
FIRE 4451	Fuels Inventory & Monitoring	3	Spring	
FIRE 5410*	Air Quality, Pollution, & Smoke	3	Summer	
FOR 5160	Hydrologic Effects of Forest Management	1	Spring	
GEOG 5240	Hydrologic Apps of GIS & Remote Sensing	3	Fall	
GEOG 5250	Graduate GIS Fundamentals	3	Fall / Summer	
GEOG 5830	Remote Sensing/GIS Image Analysis	3	Spring	
GEOG 5930	Geovisualization	3	Fall / Summer	
NRS 5800	Restoration Ecology Practicum	2	Summer	
NRS 5920	Emerging Media Outreach in NR	3	Summer	
REM 5070*	Landscape & Habitat Dynamics	3	Fall, odd years	
REM 5200	Adv Vegetation Monitoring & Measurement	3	Fall	
SOIL/ENVS 4500*	Environmental Hydrology	3	Spring	
SOIL/ENVS 5440*	Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest	3	Fall	
WLF 5400	Conservation Genetics	3	Summer	
WLF 5610	Landscape Genetics	2	Spring, even years	

Additional Requirements+

9 CREDITS

COURSE	CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
Electives or additional courses to add up to 28 plus	Various	All	
NR 5990 Non-Thesis Master's Research - Final Portfolio	2	All	

- *Courses listed in multiple bins only count toward one bin requirement.
- This academic plan is intended as a guideline only and does not replace academic advising.
- +See course catalog and department website for complete degree requirements and additional information.

- 30 credits minimum are required for a Master of Natural Resources.
- Minimum of 18 credits numbered 5000 or above are required to graduate.
- Up to 12 semester credits of graduate level work can be transferred into the program from other institutions.

University of Idaho
Master of Natural Resources

Current Curriculum:

University of Idaho
Master of Natural Resources

Master of Natural Resources:
Fish & Wildlife Sciences Management

Program Overview

The Master of Natural Resources (MNR) in Fish and Wildlife Sciences and Management is designed for professionals who are motivated to apply science to real-world conservation decisions. Recognizing that today's fish and wildlife challenges are as social and policy-driven as they are ecological, the curriculum integrates policy, planning, society, and tools and technology to prepare graduates for professional practice related to fish and wildlife management challenges. Designed for working professionals, the program builds advanced science interpretation, technical writing, and interdisciplinary communication skills needed for meaningful team engagement, leadership pathways, and long-term stewardship of wildlife and habitats across dynamic landscapes.

Fish & Wildlife Sciences Core+

10-11 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
FISH/WLF 5980 FISH/WLF 5020	Internship **AND** NR 5990 Final Portfolio **OR** Directed Study	4	Various	
FOR 5900	Science Synthesis & Communication	3	Spring	
NRS 5550 WLF 5110	Human Dimensions of Natural Resources **OR** Wildland Habitat Ecology & Assessment	3 2	Spring Fall	
WLF 5060	Fish & Wildlife External Speaker Seminar	1	Spring / Summer	

Policy, Planning & Society+

2-3 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5200	Introduction to Bioregional Planning	3	Summer	
ENVS 5230	Planning Sustainable Places	3	Fall	
ENVS 5770	Law, Ethics, & the Environment	3	Spring	
ENVS 5790	Introduction to Environmental Regulations	3	Fall	
FIRE 5484	Wildland Fire Policy	2	Spring	
FOR 5300	Natural Resource Policy Development	3	Fall	
GEOG 5130	Global Climate Change	3	Fall	
NRS/ENVS 4750	Local & Regional Environmental Planning	3	Spring	
NRS 5740	Environmental Politics & Policy	3	Fall / Summer	
NRS 5760	Env Project Mgmt & Decision Making	2	Spring	
NRS 5880	NEPA in Policy & Practice	3	Summer	

Master of Natural Resources: Fish & Wildlife Sciences Mgmt

Fish & Wildlife Sciences Courses+

8 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
FISH 4110	Fish Physiology	2	Spring	
FISH 5110	Advanced Fish Physiology	2	Spring	
FISH 5150	Large River Fisheries	2	Fall, odd years	
FISH 5160	Animal Movement, Dispersal, & Migration	3	Fall	
FISH 5250	Aquaculture in Relation to Wild Fish Pops	2	Fall, even years	
FISH 5260	Climate Effects & Conservation Management	2	Fall, odd years	
FISH 5350	Limnology	4	Fall	
FISH 5400	Wetland Restoration	3	Summer	
FISH 5500	Ecology & Cons of Freshwater Invertebrates	2	Spring	
FISH 5510	Freshwater Invertebrate Field Methods	2	Spring	
REM/WLF 4110	Wildland Habitat Ecology & Assessment	2	Fall	
WLF 4400	Conservation Biology	3	Fall / Summer	
WLF 5220	Community Ecology	2	Spring	
WLF 5400	Conservation Genetics	3	Summer	
WLF 5450	Wildlife Habitat Ecology	2-3	Spring	
WLF 5610	Landscape Genetics	2	Spring, even years	
WLF 5620	Landscape Genetics Lab	1-2	Spring, even years	
WLF 5750	Behavioral Ecology	2	Spring / Summer	

Electives+

6-7 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
FIRE 4451	Fuels Inventory & Monitoring	3	Spring	
FIRE 5326	Fire Ecology	3	Fall / Summer	
FIRE 5410	Air Quality, Pollution & Smoke	3	Summer	
FOR 5130	Mountain Ecology	3	Fall / Summer	
FOR 5160	Hydrologic Effects of Forest Management	1	Spring	
GEOG 5240	Hydrological Apps of GIS & Remote Sensing	3	Fall	
GEOG 5930	Geovisualization	3	Fall / Summer	
NRS 4720	Remote Sensing of the Environment	4	Fall	
NRS 5070	Moral Reasoning in Natural Resources	3	Summer	
NRS 5520	Current Lit in Remote Sensing	1	Spring	
NRS 5800	Restoration Ecology Practicum	2	Summer	
REM 4400	Restoration Ecology	3	Spring	
REM 4560	Integrated Rangeland Management	3	Spring	
REM 4590	Rangeland Ecology	3	Fall	
REM 5070	Landscape & Habitat Dynamics	3	Fall, odd years	
REM 5200	Adv Vegetation Monitoring & Measurement	3	Fall	
SOIL/ENVS 4500	Environmental Hydrology	3	Spring	
SOIL/ENVS 5440	Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest	3	Fall	
WLF 5550	Statistical Ecology	3	Spring	

Quantitative & Statistical Methods+

3 CREDITS

COURSE		CREDIT	OFFERED	SEMESTER TAKEN
ENVS 5110	Data Wizardry for Environmental Science	3	Summer	
STAT 4190	Introduction to SAS/R Programming	3	All EO	
STAT 4220	Survey Sampling Methods	3	All EO	
STAT 4310	Statistical Analysis	3	All EO	
WLF 5500	Stat Distributions & Applications in Ecology	2	Fall, odd years	

- *Courses listed in multiple bins only count toward one bin requirement.
- This academic plan is intended as a guideline only and does not replace academic advising.
- EO is Engineering Outreach, includes additional course fees.
- +See course catalog and department website for complete degree requirements and additional information.

- 30 credits minimum are required for a Master of Natural Resources.
- Minimum of 18 credits numbered 5000 or above are required to graduate.
- Up to 12 semester credits of graduate level work can be transferred into the program from other institutions.

University of Idaho
Master of Natural Resources

Current Curriculum:

14 Appendix

14.1 Clarifying Expectations for Students, Advisors, and Committees

It is helpful for both the advisor and student to have clear expectations about the goals and expectations that are associated with graduate school and the specific project. Below are some questions that we encourage graduate students discuss with their advisor at their first meeting together:

- What are the goals for the overall project?
- Who is funding the project and what are their expectations?
- What are the research goals for me in the first semester? What are academic goals for me in the first semester?
- How often will we meet and for how long? (ex: weekly in-person meetings for an hour?)
- What is the main way we should communicate? Email? Text?
- Are there times/days that you (the advisor) are not available to answer questions?
- What are the expectations for me as a member of the graduate student community? (i.e. voluntary attendance to seminars, college socials, etc.)
- Will we meet at the end of the first semester to review my progress and discuss research and academic goals for the 2nd semester?
- What are expectations for data management and archiving as required by my advisor and funding agency?

As a general practice, we encourage graduate students to do the following:

- Come to the meeting with an agenda
- Soon after each meeting with your advisor (i.e. within a day or so), email a summary of the meeting to your advisor; in this way, if there is a misunderstanding, it can be quickly clarified

It is important to recognize that faculty have individualized approaches to mentoring graduate students within their lab and so there are a diversity of experiences of graduate students across CNR and ENVS who are mentored by different faculty members.

Additional guidelines concerning the timing of different activities can be found in Section 3. Initial Steps for Thesis-Based Students, 3.1 -3.3.

Once a committee is formed, we encourage graduate students, their advisors, and committee to consider using the below form after every committee meeting to help track progress. This form is not required, but is rather a tool to document milestones and plan next steps. The below form can also be modified if desired. Generally, committees meet a minimum of once an academic year, but often meet once a semester. Both students and advisors would keep a copy of the progress form after each committee meeting.

Research and Curriculum Progress Form

Student name:
Meeting date:
Degree program MS PhD
Year in Program 1 2 3 4 5

Is sufficient progress being made in the study plan?
☐ Excellent ☐ Sufficient ☐ Not sufficient
Is sufficient progress being made in the research plan?
☐ Excellent ☐ Sufficient ☐ Not sufficient
MEETING SUMMARY (use additional pages as needed):

Graduate Student:
Signature: _____
Printed name: _____
Date: _____

Student's Faculty Advisor:
Signature: _____
Printed name: _____
Date: _____

Student's Advisory Committee Member:
Signature: _____
Printed name: _____
Date: _____

Student's Advisory Committee Member:
Signature: _____
Printed name: _____
Date: _____

Student's Advisory Committee Member:
Signature: _____
Printed name: _____
Date: _____

Student's Advisory Committee Member:

Signature: _____
Printed name: _____
Date: _____