

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECOLOGY

Graduate Degree Program in Ecology

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[ecology.colostate.edu \(https://ecology.colostate.edu/\)](https://ecology.colostate.edu)

The Graduate Degree Program in Ecology (GDPE) offers outstanding opportunities for graduate studies ecology. The overall objective of the M.S. in Ecology is to develop students to be science professionals who use their interdisciplinary problem-solving skills to address ecological challenges from local to global scales. Students enrolled in the Plan A (thesis option) program are engaged in independent and collaborative research guided by advisors in the program and aim to have their thesis work published in the peer-reviewed literature. The Plan B option provides a non-thesis alternative available upon special request.

Students interested in graduate work should refer to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/>) or visit the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology (<https://ecology.colostate.edu/>) website for more information.

Learning Objectives

The GDPE offers a thesis-based M.S. program (Plan A) that enables graduates to continue their education at the Ph.D. level or to seek employment in a wide range of careers including state and federal positions, non-profit organizations and environmental consulting.

The GDPE also offers a professional M.S. program (Plan B). This non-thesis-based degree focuses on coursework and a professional paper.

Successful graduates of the MS program demonstrate the following:

1. Broad knowledge of the fundamental areas of ecology as well as relevant basic biology and quantitative methods, achieved through required and elective coursework;
2. Ability to discriminate important and relevant ideas and facts and to place their work in a wide ecological context that incorporates diverse viewpoints;
3. Understanding and practice of research ethics, collaborative approaches, and broader issues related to social responsibility through coursework and research projects;
4. Proficiency in written communication as shown in the research proposal and thesis (Plan A), the professional paper (Plan B), and in oral communication as shown in presentations.