The mission of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences is to provide teaching, research and service in agriculture, forestry and life sciences that will benefit the citizens of South Carolina and the nation. The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences serves more than 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students.

The ability to understand and manipulate the molecular structure of biological systems, while at the same time understanding their practical management, offers immense potential to improve our world, whether it is to improve foods, building products, the environment, or our health. The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences is using the same expertise to produce more food on less available land, grow better foods that will help prevent heart disease and fight breast cancer, package environmentally sound products, increase dairy production, increase timber production and develop businesses and promote a “green” society.

The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences offers Masters and Doctoral degree programs in disciplines in agriculture, forestry and life sciences, from the fundamental to the applied. The Master of Agricultural Education and Master of Forest Resources professional degrees are awarded to those individuals whose interests lie outside a research-oriented profession. Combined BS/MS programs are available for Food Science, Biological Science/Bioengineering, Packaging Science and Wildlife and Fisheries Biology.

Cooperative programs with state, federal and private agencies allow students to extend their research off campus to the Greenwood Genetics Center, research and education centers spanning South Carolina, and state and national forests of the Savannah River Basin. Proximity to the Blue Ridge Mountains provides access to one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world.

MASTER OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Master of Agricultural Education is a professional degree designed to enhance the human resource skills in agriculture and education. The flexible program provides a core of planning, delivery, evaluation and administrative strategies while encouraging specialization in teacher education, adult and extension education, agricultural communications, youth development, or technology transfer. Graduates hold positions as agriculture teachers, extension agents, agricultural and environmental agency employees, as well as human resource development specialists in the agricultural industry.

Candidates for the degree are required to plan a program of study in consultation with the major advisor and graduate committee and complete a minimum of three credit hours in adult education, three hours in research methods and three hours in statistics; a minimum of 12 credit hours in the major field; and a minimum of six credit hours in an area of concentration outside the major field.

A minimum of 30 credit hours is required for the professional degree. At least one-half of these credit hours must be selected from courses numbered 700 or above. The student’s program of study must be approved by the advisory committee.

Admission Requirements

Students must complete all University applications, submit undergraduate overall grade averages and GRE scores, participate in an interview with a department graduate committee, and submit a writing sample on a topic assigned by the interview committee. Most admitted applicants have a GPA of at least 3.0 and GRE scores of at least 150 verbal, 141 quantitative and 3.0 writing. Acceptance will be based on an evaluation involving all of the above as well as appropriate recommendations. Additional undergraduate coursework may be required for marginally qualified students, students without undergraduate Agricultural Education degrees, and those seeking teacher certification.

ANIMAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES

Master of Science

Doctor of Philosophy

Applicants to the Animal and Veterinary Sciences programs should have a strong background in the animal, biological and physical sciences. Students with deficiencies in these sciences may be admitted provided they correct these deficiencies during the first year of the program of study.

MS students are required to complete coursework in an area of interest approved by their graduate advisory committee. MS students may select a thesis or non-thesis option. Students in the thesis option must complete a minimum of 30 hours of graduate coursework, including six credits of thesis research. Students in the non-thesis option must complete a minimum of 30 hours of coursework and a comprehensive oral examination.

The PhD degree program does not have formal coursework requirements, but it is recognized that students will have individual deficiencies; therefore, it is the responsibility of the student and major advisor, in consultation with the graduate advisory committee, to prescribe coursework to correct these deficiencies.

All students in Animal and Veterinary Sciences are required to complete AVS 8200. A dissertation is required.

Each student’s program will include at least 30 credit hours beyond the master’s degree or 60 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree, including a minimum of 18 hours of dissertation research.

APPLIED ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

Master of Science

The Master of Science program in Applied Economics and Statistics is jointly administered in cooperation with the College of Business and Behavioral Science. Graduate work in Applied Economics and Statistics enables students to add to their understanding of economic analysis, econometric methods, and statistical techniques. Our faculty place special emphasis on the economics of agricultural production and marketing, issues in agribusiness, economic development and analysis of government programs and policies. Both thesis and non-thesis options are available. The curriculum for both options includes recommended courses in applied economics and experimental statistics. Flexibility is achieved through choice of elective courses and, for the thesis option, in the selection of a master’s thesis topic. There is no foreign language requirement.

The school encourages applications from students with baccalaureate degrees in Agricultural or Applied Economics, Economics, Statistics, Mathematics, in natural resource areas such as Forestry or Wildlife Biology, and other majors. For more information, see the program description under Economics, College of Business and Behavioral Science.

BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Doctor of Philosophy

Enrollment in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program is open to students with appropriate degrees in agricultural, biological, or physical sciences or engineering. Entering students must have satisfactory academic records in mathematical, physical and biological sciences. Research activities include bioinformatics, functional genomics, microbial and plant biochemistry, molecular biology, proteins and signal transduction.

Degree Requirements

The PhD program requires GEN 8140 and BCHM 8140 during a student’s first semester; and BCHM 8590 and B8900 during a student’s second semester. In addition, PhD students are required to attend BCHM 8250 every semester they are enrolled. Students beyond their first year are required to do one oral presentation every year in BCHM 8250.

A student’s dissertation committee will determine whether the student should take courses in addition to the required courses.

A dissertation, consisting of 18 credits of doctoral research (BCHM 9910), exclusive of any research credits earned at the master’s level, is required of PhD students. Successful completion of written and oral comprehensive examinations will admit doctoral students to candidacy for the PhD degree. A total of 30 credit hours beyond the master’s degree (or 60 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree) is required for the doctoral degree.
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
**Master of Science**  
**Doctor of Philosophy**  
The MS and PhD degree programs in Biological Sciences encompass a wide variety of disciplines in both plant and animal biology with three major emphasis areas: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cell and Developmental Biology, and Comparative Organismal Biology.

Applicants to the graduate degree programs in Biological Sciences must have a bachelor’s or master’s degree and a background in training in biology. All students are expected to have completed inorganic and organic chemistry, physics, calculus, biology, plant and animal diversity, genetics, and evolutionary biology. Deficiencies (less than 18 hours total) may be remedied through appropriate coursework completed during the graduate program. Graduate credit is not normally awarded for remedial coursework. Students with more than 18 hours of deficiencies, including those with degrees outside of biology, are encouraged to contact the Department of Biological Sciences to discuss options for fulfilling coursework requirements in preparation for application to the MS and PhD programs.

Candidates for the MS degree must complete 30 hours of graduate credit, including 24 credits of coursework, six credits of thesis research, an acceptable thesis based on original research and satisfactory performance in a final oral examination.

Candidates for the PhD degree must complete written and oral comprehensive examinations, 18 credits of dissertation research, an acceptable dissertation based on original research and satisfactory performance in a final oral examination. Although there is no required coursework for the doctorate beyond the 18 credits of dissertation research, some graduate coursework emphasizing breadth and depth of knowledge in the life sciences is expected of each candidate. A total of 30 credit hours beyond the master’s degree (or 60 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree) is required for the doctoral degree.

**Non-Thesis Option**  
The non-thesis option of the MS is designed specifically for K-12 teachers and others interested in biological sciences education. Candidates must complete a total of 30 semester hours of graduate coursework. At least 18 of the 30 hours must be at the 8000 level. All courses are offered online. A research proposal and project whose results are presented in written format is also a requirement. The scope of the research project is not as extensive as the thesis required in the traditional MS program; however, it is expected that students will conduct original scientific research and write a document of the caliber of a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. The student and the student’s graduate committee will determine the subject of the research project.

Admission to the non-thesis option of the MS program requires a suitable undergraduate education, two letters of recommendation, a resume, and suitable GRE scores. (GRE scores are not required for teachers with one or more years of teaching experience.) Students do not need an undergraduate degree in biology to be considered for admission.

**ENTOMOLOGY**  
**Master of Science**  
**Doctor of Philosophy**  
The Entomology graduate programs of the School of Agricultural, Forest and Environmental Sciences are dedicated to providing leadership in environmental entomology. Research programs fall into three emphasis areas: arthropod biodiversity, agricultural entomology, and urban entomology. Facilities of the South Carolina Experiment Station on campus and at four research and education centers located in various regions of the state are available for graduate student research. In addition to teaching and research laboratories, specialized facilities within the department include the Clemson University Arthropod Collection; laboratories for molecular genetics, tissue culture and analytical chemistry/toxicology; wet laboratories; controlled and ambient temperature insect-rearing facilities; a free-flight butterfly facility; and greenhouses. Candidates for the MS degree must complete a minimum of 30 hours of graduate credit, including six hours of research, and write a thesis. Candidates for the PhD degree must complete a minimum of 60 hours of graduate credit beyond the BS/BA degree and 30 beyond the MS degree, including 18 hours of dissertation research and write a dissertation. Candidates for both degrees must satisfy a set of core requirements, some of which may have been satisfied in a previous degree program.

**ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY**  
**Master of Science**  
**Doctor of Philosophy**  
The graduate program in Environmental Toxicology is an interdisciplinary program preparing students for careers in academia, private businesses or government agencies involved in environmental issues. Candidates enrolling in the MS and Ph.D. programs must meet all requirements for admission to the Graduate School and have an adequate background in the natural sciences, including organic chemistry, physics, calculus, biology, ecology, biochemistry, and physiology.

Candidates for the MS degree must complete 30 hours of graduate credit, including 24 credits of coursework, six credits of thesis research, an acceptable thesis based on original research and satisfactory performance in a final oral examination. A core of required courses consists of EES 8430 or EES 8450, ETOX 6300, ETOX 6370, ETOX 8610 a graduate-level statistics course. At least one-half of the total coursework must be at the 8000 level. Candidates for the PhD degree must complete written and oral comprehensive examinations, 18 credits of dissertation research, an acceptable dissertation based on original research and satisfactory performance in a final oral examination. In addition, a core of required courses, consisting of EES 8430 or EES 8450, ETOX 6300, ETOX 6370, ETOX 8610, a graduate-level statistics course, and 9 credit hours of appropriate graduate-level course work are required.

**FOOD, NUTRITION AND CULINARY SCIENCES**  
**Master of Science**  
Detailed information is available from the Department of Food, Nutrition, and Packaging Sciences or at www.clemson.edu/fnp.

**Admission Requirements**  
Students admitted to the MS program in Food, Nutrition and Culinary Sciences must meet the following criteria.

1. The Aptitude Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE General Test) must be taken by all applicants. A minimum total GRE score of 1000 on the two-component exam is required if taken prior to August 1, 2011 and 300 if taken on or after August 1, 2011. Applicant score on the analytical writing section of the GRE should be 4.0 or higher.

2. A strong background in food science; human nutrition; physical, chemical, or biological sciences; or engineering is highly desirable.

3. Proficiency in food science must be demonstrated by satisfactory completion of coursework in the following areas: food chemistry, food microbiology, food processing, and biochemistry. Background course requirements will normally be satisfied with completion of a BS degree in Food Science from an accredited institution. Students deficient in any of these areas will be required to complete coursework to fulfill these background course requirements.

4. Acceptance is based upon academic transcripts with a minimum undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0, three letters of recommendation, a statement of objectives and professional experience.

5. International students must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 80. IELTS can be taken in lieu of TOEFL. Minimum score accepted on the IELTS is 6.5. International students must also submit documentation of adequate financial support for their studies.

6. An additional requirement for admission is identification of a research advisor prepared to accept the applicant as an advisee.

**Financial Aid**  
A limited number of research assistantships are available from grant funds, with the student assisting in the research supported under the grant. This research often may be applicable to the thesis or dissertation. Interested applicants should contact individual faculty for research assistantships. Applicants whose files are completed prior to February 15, will be given preferential consideration for research assistantships offered beginning fall semester.

**Transfer of Credits**  
With pre-approval, up to eight graduate credits may be transferred into the MS program. A grade of B or better is required in each course transferred.

**Course Requirements—Thesis Option**  
A minimum of 24 credit hours of coursework and six credit hours of thesis research (FDSC 8910) is required for the MS degree. Only 600-level courses and higher may be used for graduate credit and at least one-half of the 24 hours of coursework must be at the 8000 level or higher.
The following courses are required: EXST 8010 or equivalent, FDSC 8510 (one-credit hour seminar each year), FDSC 8110, NUTR 8030, 10 credit hours of advanced-level courses (may include courses in food science or in areas such as chemistry, nutrition, biochemistry, animal and veterinary sciences, microbiology, statistics, or cell biology, as required by the student’s Graduate Advisory Committee), and six credit hours of thesis research (FDSC 8910).

Course Requirements—Non-thesis Option
A minimum of 30 hours of coursework as outlined below and a comprehensive, two-day final examination is required for the MS degree. The final examination consists of one day of core material and one day of content selected from departmental courses. Details may be found in the Graduate Handbook.

The following core courses are required: EXST 8010 or EDF 7780, FDSC 8100, and NUTR 8030.

Students select three out of the six following courses: FDSC 8110, 8120, 8150, NUTR 8040, 8050, 8070. Students select eight to ten additional credit hours from 6000-level or higher courses with approval of the student’s graduate committee.

In addition, for both the thesis and non-thesis options, a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 is required to maintain good academic standing and for graduation.

Combined BS in Food Science/MS in Food, Nutrition and Culinary Sciences
Under this plan, students may reduce the time necessary to earn both degrees by applying graduate credits to both undergraduate and graduate program requirements. Enrollment guidelines and procedures can be found in the Undergraduate Announcements. Consult the Department of Food, Nutrition and Packaging Sciences for details.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY
Doctor of Philosophy
Students admitted to the PhD program in Food Technology must meet the following criteria.
1. The Aptitude Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE General Test) must be taken by all applicants. Most successful students have a minimum GRE score of 300 (combined and quantitative) and 4.0 on the written section.
2. A strong background in food science; human nutrition; physical, chemical, or biological sciences; or engineering is highly desirable.
3. Proficiency in food science must be demonstrated by satisfactory completion of coursework in the following areas: food chemistry, food microbiology, food processing, and biochemistry. Background course requirements will normally be satisfied with completion of a BS degree in Food Science from an accredited institution. Students deficient in any of these areas will be required to complete coursework to fulfill these background course requirements.
4. Acceptance is based upon academic transcripts with a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0, three letters of recommendation, a statement of objectives and professional experience.
5. International students must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 80. IELTS can be taken in lieu of TOEFL. Minimum score accepted on the IELTS is 6.5. International students must also submit documentation of adequate financial support for their studies.
6. An additional requirement for admission is identification of a research advisor prepared to accept the applicant as an advisee.

A limited number of research assistantships are available from grant funds, with the student assisting in the research supported under the grant. This research often may be applicable to the thesis or dissertation. Interested applicants should contact individual faculty for research assistantships. Applicants whose files are completed prior to February 15, will be given preference consideration for research assistantships offered beginning fall semester.

There are no set course requirements for the doctorate in Food Technology. Candidates for the PhD degree must complete a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master’s degree, including at least 18 hours of dissertation research, in addition to writing a dissertation. It is expected that each PhD graduate will have a comprehensive understanding of the principles of food science with an expanded knowledge covering their focused research area. The PhD candidate’s advisory committee will have final approval on all coursework. PhD candidates must pass a comprehensive examination comprised of written and oral portions, given by the PhD candidate’s advisory committee. The successful student must also write and defend a dissertation to the satisfaction of the advisory committee. Dissertations usually contain a review of the literature and a detailed description of research in a scientific publication format. PhD students should expect to publish a minimum of two refereed research manuscripts from their dissertations.

GENETICS
Doctor of Philosophy
The PhD degree in Genetics is administered by the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry. Research activities include biochemical, biometrical, molecular and population genetics, as well as bioinformatics, cytogenetics, and structural and functional genomics through arrangements with other participating disciplines and with the Greenwood Genetics Center.

Degree Requirements
The PhD program requires GEN 8140 and BCHM 8140 during a student’s first semester; and GEN 8050 and 8090 during a student’s second semester. In addition, PhD students are required to attend GEN 8250 every semester they are enrolled. Students beyond their first year are required to do one oral presentation every year in GEN 8250.

A student’s dissertation committee will determine whether the student should take courses in addition to the required courses.

A dissertation, consisting of 18 credits of doctoral research (GEN 9910) exclusive of any research credits earned at the master’s level, is required of PhD students. Successful completion of written and oral comprehensive examinations will admit the doctoral students to candidacy for the PhD degree.

MICROBIOLOGY
Master of Science
Doctor of Philosophy
The Department of Biological Sciences administers the MS and PhD degree programs in Microbiology. The Microbiology graduate programs include a wide variety of disciplines with three major emphasis areas: Cellular and Physiological Microbiology, Microbial Genetics and Molecular Microbiology, and Environmental Microbiology.

Applicants to the graduate degree programs in Microbiology must have a bachelor’s or master’s degree and a background in training in biology (botany, microbiology, or zoology), chemistry, or in one of the agricultural sciences. Undergraduate work in bacteriology or microbiology is desirable but not necessary. All students are expected to have completed inorganic and organic chemistry, physics, calculus, general biology and genetics. Deficiencies (less than 18 hours total) may be remedied through appropriate coursework completed during the graduate program. Graduate credit is not normally awarded for remedial coursework. Students with more than 18 hours of deficiencies including those with degrees outside of biology, chemistry, or agricultural sciences are encouraged to contact the Department of Biological Sciences to discuss options for fulfilling coursework requirements in preparation for application to the MS and PhD programs.

Candidates for the MS degree must complete 30 hours of graduate credit, including 24 credits of coursework, six credits of thesis research, an acceptable thesis based on original research, and satisfactory performance in a final oral examination. The 30 credits of graduate coursework will include courses from each of the following areas: cellular

FOREST RESOURCES
Master of Science
Doctor of Philosophy
Enrollment in the Master of Forest Resources and Master of Science programs is open to students who have earned a baccalaureate degree in forestry, forest products, or a related field. A master’s degree, preferably in a forestry discipline, is required for enrollment in the Doctor of Philosophy program. The candidate may be required to satisfy undergraduate deficiencies before being admitted to full status.

The Master of Forest Resources, a non-thesis degree, requires a minimum of 36 credit hours of graduate coursework with at least 18 of the required hours selected from courses numbered 7000 or above.

A formal thesis is required for the MS and PhD degrees. The MS degree requires a minimum of 24 credit hours of coursework and six hours of research. The PhD degree requires a minimum of 16 credit hours of coursework and 18 hours of research beyond the student’s master’s degree coursework. For both degrees, one-half of the semester hours must be selected from courses numbered 8000 and above.
Candidates for the PhD program must complete written and oral comprehensive examinations, 18 credits of dissertation research, an acceptable dissertation based on original research, and satisfactory performance in a final oral examination. Although there is no required number of credits of coursework for the doctorate beyond the 18 credits of dissertation research, a core of graduate coursework including courses from each of the following areas is expected of each candidate: cellular and physiological microbiology, microbial genetics and molecular microbiology, and environmental microbiology.

PACKAGING SCIENCE

Master of Science

The MS degree program in Packaging Science prepares graduates to work independently in the research, development and application of new packaging materials and processes. Students may be accepted with backgrounds relating to chemistry, physics, mathematics, biology, or engineering. Students with backgrounds in business or graphic communications or other disciplines may also be accepted after completing courses equivalent to the basic science and mathematics courses in the department's undergraduate curriculum. Each degree program is designed individually to augment the student's background to provide a broad understanding of packaging science and specialized knowledge in the area of the student's research.

The MS degree in Packaging Science requires 30 hours of coursework, six of which are thesis research, and the completion of an acceptable MS thesis. In addition to PKSC 8910, students register for at least one credit of PKSC 8510.

Competency in distribution, transportation and engineering technology; food and health care packaging; materials; and packaging design and graphics is expected.

Combined Bachelor of Science/Master of Science Degree Program

The Department of Food, Nutrition, and Packaging Sciences also offers an accelerated five-year combined bachelor’s/master’s program that allows students to count up to 12 hours of graduate credit toward both the BS degree in Packaging Science and the MS degree in Packaging Science. Details are available from the Department of Food, Nutrition, and Packaging Sciences or at www.clemson.edu/fnps.

PLANT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Master of Science

Doctor of Philosophy

The degree programs in Plant and Environmental Sciences are offered through an interdepartmental program comprised of faculty from disciplines including biological sciences, botany, crop science, entomology, genetics, environmental horticulture, plant pathology, plant physiology and soil science. Candidates for the program in Plant and Environmental Sciences should have a strong undergraduate background in the biological, agricultural and/or physical sciences as appropriate to their focus areas. Undergraduate curricula that may provide this background are botany, biology, chemistry, or one of the agricultural plant and soil environmental sciences such as agronomy, forest resources, or horticulture. Students with nontraditional backgrounds may need to complete some relevant undergraduate courses to supplement the graduate program.

Each student’s degree program is tailored to his/her professional goals and is guided by an advisor and graduate committee with expertise appropriate to the student’s area of specialization. All graduate students must select an advisor before admission.

Candidates for the MS degree must complete 24 credit hours of coursework and six hours of research, and they must present and defend a thesis based on original research. MS students who plan on research-related careers in public gardening, landscape design, extension, consulting, or agribusiness may complete 30 credit hours of coursework and undertake a professional development/public service project option in lieu of thesis-related research. Interdisciplinary studies in plant health and integrated pest management are also available under this option.

A dissertation based on original research is required for the PhD degree. The doctoral degree requires at least 30 credit hours beyond the master’s degree and 60 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree.

Individual plans of study include courses from the following areas: biochemistry, biological sciences, botany, crop and soil environmental science, entomology, genetics, horticulture and plant pathology as well as plant and environmental sciences.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES BIOLOGY

Master of Science

Doctor of Philosophy

Those who are interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology should have sound undergraduate training in the biological or related sciences. Initially, applicants should contact the faculty members whose research interests are closest to their own. Programs of study are designed to emphasize relationships between wild animals and their changing environments and production of aquatic organisms.

Admission to either the master’s program or the doctoral program requires acceptance by the University and the Graduate Student Admission Committee of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. This committee will base its acceptance recommendation to the Graduate Admissions Office on previous coursework, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, undergraduate background and current research interests. Students are required to have completed a bachelor’s degree, preferably in a natural science, with a minimum of 30 credit hours in natural sciences. In addition, an MS in Natural Resource Biology or related area usually is preferred, but not required, for acceptance into the doctoral program. Students accepted without the appropriate course background will be required to make up these deficiencies as outlined by the Graduate Student Admission Committee and consistent with University admission policies.

Students seeking the MS degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology may select a thesis or a non-thesis option. Requirements for the thesis option include a minimum of 24 credit hours of coursework, six hours of thesis research (WFB 8910), an acceptable thesis based on original research, and satisfactory performance on a final oral examination/thesis defense. Additional coursework usually includes subjects such as experimental statistics, biological sciences and forestry. Thesis research areas include conservation biology, wildlife management, endangered species, freshwater fisheries science and wildlife toxicology.

The non-thesis option is designed primarily for students with substantial experience in natural resources who wish to enhance their professional degree skills. Students in the non-thesis option are not allowed to transfer to the thesis option without approval by vote of the faculty of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. Candidates must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved courses, including three to six hours of WFB 8630, which result in a broad, well informed and integrated exposure to natural resources management and environmental issues. The non-thesis project must be substantial in nature and result in an extended report addressing a major problem or issue relevant to the field of wildlife management, fisheries management, natural resources or environmental studies. The scope of the project should be consistent with the credit hours awarded for the project. A maximum of three credit hours from independent studies (WFB 8610 or similar courses) may be applied toward the coursework requirement. The graduate advisory committee ensures appropriate elective course selection and may require a student to complete more than 24 credits if deficiencies in the student’s background exist or if additional courses are required for professional certification. Students are also required to pass a final oral examination.

The PhD degree program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours beyond the student’s master’s degree coursework or 60 credit hours beyond the student’s bachelor’s degree coursework. While the PhD program has no specific credit hour requirement beyond that, the student’s advisory committee will insist on a rigorous and appropriate program of study and research. Students are required to take, or have taken, at least two semesters of graduate statistics and two semesters of 800-level seminars in fisheries and wildlife science or related areas. Students must also have at least one semester of professional experience, which will be evaluated by the advisory committee. Examples of appropriate professional experience are teaching assistantships, internships or cooperative study program participation, or natural resource agency employment. Other course requirements will be identified by the student’s advisory committee and will include specific courses according to the elected emphasis area: fisheries biology, wildlife biology, or conservation biology.
Research opportunities are enhanced by cooperative programs with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Research Unit at Clemson, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Webb Wildlife Research Center, and Waddell Mariculture Center. The department also is associated with the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement Eastern Wildlife Program. The graduate program is accredited by the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society.

Combined BS/MS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
Under this plan, students may reduce the time necessary to earn both degrees by applying graduate credits to both undergraduate and graduate program requirements. Students should obtain specific requirements for the dual degree from the School of Agricultural, Forest and Environmental Sciences as early as possible in their undergraduate program to ensure that all prerequisites are met. Enrollment guidelines and procedures can be found in the Undergraduate Announcements.