**Graduate Program Requirements**

**Program Name:** PhDEcology

**Department:** Ecology

**School/College:** Odum School of Ecology

**Graduate Coordinator:**

**Name:** Craig W. Osenberg

**Email:** osenberg@uga.edu

**Phone:** 706.713.2051

|  |
| --- |
| **Program Description** *(Required)*  *Note: A program description can be found at* <https://www.ecology.uga.edu/academics/graduate-school/> *.*  PhD-Ecology students are trained to become independent scholars with the research skills and depth of disciplinary knowledge in ecology to lead their own research programs.  PhD-Ecology students work with faculty mentors to design a course of study that provides rigorous theoretical and methodological training while addressing fundamental questions in basic and/or applied ecology. The major emphasis is on dissertation research, with foundational knowledge provided by coursework in ecology and related disciplines.  Students are expected to be knowledgeable in areas of ecology ranging from behavior and physiology to populations and ecosystems, as well as allied disciplines, such as evolutionary biology and statistics. Relevant electives are offered by the Odum School and other departments (e.g., Plant Biology, Genetics, Statistics, Marine Sciences, Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Entomology, Forest Resources, Geology, Geography, and Microbiology). The program is deliberately designed to be flexible to complement the student’s background and facilitate their career objectives.  Students in the PhD-Ecology program also benefit from our close ties with Centers and Institutes, such as the River Basin Center, the Center for the Ecology of Infectious Diseases, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Center for Applied Isotope Studies, Center for Integrative Conservation Research, Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems, and the Institute of BioInformatics. |
| **Total Program Hours** *(Required)*  34 hours (30 if the student matriculates with a MS) |
| **Contact Information** *(Required)*  Graduate Coordinator  Craig W. Osenberg, Professor  [osenberg@uga.edu](mailto:osenberg@uga.edu)  Graduate Program Advisor/Graduate Coordinator Assistant  Julie Escobedo Gunby  [gunby@uga.edu](mailto:gunby@uga.edu)  706.542.3404  www.ecology.uga.edu |
| **Entrance Requirements**  Apply to the UGA Graduate School and include the following:   * 3 Letters of recommendation * CV * Statement of Purpose (emphasizing career goals, objectives, and research plans); at the end of the statement include the names of up to 3 potential faculty who share your interests and could serve as your major advisor. * Unofficial transcript (3.0 minimum gpa) * Although there are no formal course requirements for admission, your previous coursework and training should reflect preparation for advanced study in ecology (e.g. coursework in ecology, work experience, research experience, publications, presentations, REU participation, MS or senior thesis). A MS is not required for admission. * International students: For students whose primary language is not English, proof of English proficiency is required. Students need to submit official university documents according to the UGA Graduate School requirements. Students will also have to show certificate of finances upon acceptance to the program. * Application deadline is December 1 for the following fall. |
| **Required Courses** *(Required)*  The PhD Ecology degree is designed to be flexible and accommodate the professional goals of the student. Thus, there are no specific course requirements (aside from the thesis).   * >34 hours (30 if you matriculate with a MS) * > 21 hours of face-to-face instruction, approved by their advisory committee; 16 hours must be at the 8000-level or above. These hours must include:   + ECOL 8000   + At least two of three foundational courses (ECOL8100, ECOL8310, ECOL8322)   + Electives make up the remainder of the required 21 hours * Doctoral research ECOL 9000 (6 hours max) * Doctoral thesis ECOL 9300 (3 hours) |
| **Elective Courses**   * various |
| **Additional Requirements**   * GradFirst Seminar, GRSC 7001 * Students who are selected for teaching assistantships are required to take Graduate Teaching Seminar, GRSC 7770. |
| **Career Information**   * Many of our graduates have gone on to academic careers as research and teaching faculty at top-ranked universities and liberal arts colleges. Other graduates pursue successful non-academic careers with government agencies, industry, and NGOs (e.g., as program scientists, data analysts, environmental managers). |
| **Transfer Student Information**  NA |
| **Available Scholarships**   * Qualified students will be nominated by the Graduate Program Committee for Graduate School Presidential and PhD Fellows awards. * Students also are encouraged to seek outside fellowships and scholarships (e.g., NSF Graduate Research Fellowships). |
| **Study Away Opportunities**   * Students are encouraged to pursue research opportunities outside of Athens, when appropriate and in consultation with their committees. |
| **Internship Opportunities**   * Students are encouraged to pursue internship opportunities when those internships will facilitate their professional development and career aspirations. |
| **Other Learning Opportunities**   * Students are encouraged to present their research at conferences, professional meetings, and symposia. The Odum School (and Graduate School) have funds available to defray travel expenses for students who present. * Students also are encouraged to write grant proposals to help fund their research and to develop grant-writing skills. * Students are expected to publish their research findings in peer-reviewed journals. |
| **Student Organizations**   * Graduate Student Organization (GSO) is the primary group that organizes and represents graduate students in the Odum School of Ecology. * EcoReach focuses on outreach to K-12 grades through presentations and activities designed to heighten awareness of ecology and environmental issues. * STEMZone is an outreach event that focuses on community science education and occurs during home football games. |
| **Available Graduate Programs**  Other programs in the Odum School of Ecology, include:   * PhD Integrative Conservation (with an emphasis in Ecology) * MS Ecology * MS Ecology (non-thesis option) * MS Integrative Conservation and Sustainability   Note: A pending proposal will merge the MS Ecology and MS ICAS programs (in MS Ecology) and create an area of emphasis in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability |