**Graduate Program Requirements**

**Program Name:** MSEcology

**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/> *.*  The MS degree program in Ecology is ideal for students who have not previously led an independent research project, who are not certain they want to pursue a PhD, or whose professional goals do not require a PhD. Students work with faculty mentors to develop a research thesis that can be completed in two years and should result in a peer-reviewed publication. In addition to their research, the student also takes coursework that helps them learn advanced concepts and develop skills relevant to their career goals. |
| **Total Program Hours** *(Required)*  30 hours |
| **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 goals, objectives, and research ideas) * Unofficial transcript (3.0 minimum gpa.) * 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, or senior thesis.) * 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 MS 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).   * Students are required to take 21 hours of face-to-face coursework approved by their faculty advisor and advisory committee, plus * Master’s research ECOL 7000 (6 hours max) * Master’s thesis ECOL 7300 (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**   * Graduates have gone on to PhD programs, as well as careers with industry, government agencies, and NGOs (e.g., as science teachers in public school systems, environmental managers, data analysts, environmental educators, and research technicians). |
| **Transfer Student Information**  NA |
| **Available Scholarships**   * Qualified students will be nominated by the Graduate Program Committee for Graduate School MS Fellows and for the Butler Fellowship and the Spencer Fellowship. * 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 they will facilitate their professional development. |
| **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. |
| **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 Ecology * PhD Integrative Conservation (with an emphasis in 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 |