

Overview

Colorado State University's online Master of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology (FWCB) focuses on ecology and management of wild animals, for their benefit and the benefit of humans. With direct and indirect human impacts on the environment increasing, lands that are inhabited by wildlife species are being changed or lost at unprecedented rates. Managing for wildlife in these times includes activities such as study design, data collection and interpretation, and communication to constituencies so policies can be selected that have positive outcomes for wildlife and humans.

Study design and analysis is often the job of wildlife biologists, who have a deep respect and passion for the natural world, the wildlife that inhabits it, and how humans interact with and impact them both. This online master's degree provides the training and credentials natural resource professionals need to effectively guide studies, decisions, and policies related to fish and wildlife management.

This intensive, coursework-only online master's degree is designed for professionals in the natural resources area, with a focus on the skills and tools needed to analyze, communicate, and make decisions about conservation issues. Students will broaden their critical thinking on current issues and receive the training to be successful and advance in careers at natural resources agencies, firms, and non-government organizations.

Curriculum

Coursework will provide students with an advanced knowledge in ecology and conservation of fish and wildlife and develop competencies such as:

- Population ecology, sampling, and advanced quantitative/statistical methods.
- Wildlife habitat management strategies.
- Current issues in fish, wildlife, and conservation biology such as maintaining biodiversity, endangered species management, and potential impacts of climate change on species management.
- Effective strategies for conservation decision making including stakeholder identification, communication, and conflict resolution.
- Understanding human/wildlife interactions from animal damage and zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza and West Nile virus.

Delivery

Online

Credits

30 credits

Tuition

\$705 per credit

- Includes [Student Services](#)
- [Fees](#) assessed separately
- [Financial aid](#) is available; eligibility determined on an individual basis

Time frame

Can be completed in 3 years

Completion requirements

- Completion of 30 credits, including 21 credits of required core coursework and 9 credits of electives.
- Up to nine credits may be taken before formal admission to the program.
- 24 credits must be earned from Colorado State University, 21 of which must be earned after formal admission.

More info

online.colostate.edu/degrees/fish-wildlife-conservation-biology

Contact

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How to Apply

Master of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology (M.F.W.C.B.)



Application Deadlines

Fall semester: **April 1**

Spring semester: **October 1**

1 Review Minimum Admission Requirements

- A B.A. or B.S. degree in fish, wildlife, and conservation biology or a closely related discipline.
- A minimum of 2 years full-time professional employment post-bachelor's degree, with work focusing on F.W.C.B. or a closely related field.
- A 3.0 GPA or higher on all undergraduate coursework. Exceptions to this are made on a case-by-case basis.
 - No specific coursework is required but courses in ecology, in introductory calculus, and in statistics are prerequisites for a number of the Plan C program's core courses. Because applicants are working professionals, having the equivalent knowledge and skills from job settings could be used to meet a course prerequisite with instructor approval.
 - Applications are reviewed for the presence of courses in the three topics above. If such courses are not readily apparent on a transcript, the applicant must explain briefly in the Personal Statement how equivalent knowledge to an undergraduate course has been gained in that topic or how the applicant plans to address this deficiency through coursework if admitted to the program.

Note that meeting the minimum department standards does not ensure admission to the program. Admission is based on a number of factors, including prior academic and professional experience, references, and the personal statement.

2 Prepare Application Materials

- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Statement of purpose

3 Complete Online Application

Complete the [online graduate application](#) and pay the nonrefundable application processing fee (payable online). As soon as you have completed the required information, please submit your application. Your application will not be reviewed until it is complete and all required materials have been received.

- Select "Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology (M.F.W.C.) – Distance" when choosing the program of study.

4 Request Transcripts

Request one official transcript of all collegiate work completed from every institution attended, whether or not you received a degree from those institutions. Transcripts from Colorado State University are not required. Official transcripts can either be mailed in or sent as e-transcripts.

Send e-transcripts to: gradadmissions@colostate.edu

Send paper copies to:

Graduate Admissions

Colorado State University – Office of Admissions

1062 Campus Delivery

Fort Collins, CO 80523-1062

Check Your Application Status

View your [application status](#) at any time to ensure your application checklist is complete or to check on updates.

International Students

See [website](#) for test score and transcript requirements.