NATURAL RESOURCES AND SOCIETY (M.S.)

Master of Science. Major in Natural Resources.

Thesis, non-thesis, and course-based options are offered.

1. Thesis programs are specifically research oriented and the student is required to conduct independent research and present the results as a thesis, which must be approved by the candidate's supervisory committee.

2. Non-thesis programs are concentrated more on course work. Though research may be conducted, the candidate is not required to present the results in a formal thesis. A final report, professional paper(s), or other terminal project agreed on in advance by the advisory committee is a normal requirement under this plan. This program lends itself to projects such as recreation master plans, regional plans, area management plans, historical reviews, and the development of professional interpretive media.

3. The course-based program is designed for practitioners with a focus on coursework that will prepare professionals for leadership careers in conservation.

For both the thesis and non-thesis options, after a research or other scholarly project is selected, the student must prepare for his or her committee a formal work plan and make an oral public presentation of the proposed project. The purpose of this requirement is to:

1. help structure and sharpen the student’s thinking and approach to the project,
2. obtain the views of various knowledgeable persons that may lead to constructive modifications in the work plan,
3. gain experience in making professional presentations, and
4. increase communication within the academic community.