Graduate Student Handbook

Masters of Science (M.S.)

and

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D)

in

Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

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UPDATED AND APPROVED
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April 2008
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WELCOME

The faculty and staff of the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department would like to extend a warm welcome to you as you begin your graduate studies with us at Colorado State University.

OVERVIEW

This handbook presents the general policies and procedures for obtaining a Masters of Science (M.S.) or a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources in the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (HDNR) at Colorado State University (CSU). This handbook is intended to assist you in obtaining the maximum value for your time at Colorado State. CSU is organized in such a way that the Graduate School confers the degree, while the Department administers the degree. Therefore the student should become familiar with the Graduate School’s requirements and procedures in tandem with those of the HDNR Department. Note that some HDNR requirements may exceed the Graduate School or other departments’ minimum requirements.

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources is to contribute to the conservation, stewardship and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources and the management of those resources in a way that produces both land health and sustainable human benefits. Our focus is to strengthen the human dimensions of natural resource management and integrate them with the biophysical elements of management. Our efforts are directed locally, nationally, and internationally, across a landscape that includes both public and private lands and resources. To that end, the department incorporates the following goals within its program of instruction, research and outreach:

- To foster the type of recreation and tourism that contributes to the health of local, national, and international economies in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.
- To conduct scientific inquiry which helps us better understand and predict human thought and action toward the natural environment.
- To contribute to the planning and management of human activities and resources in parks, protected areas and other natural environments ranging from urban open space to wilderness.
- To contribute to the general public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of natural resources.
- To promote and facilitate natural resources policy and decision-making that is responsive to public values and which encourages direct and informed public access to the natural resource decision-making process.
- To contribute to the effectiveness of the techniques and procedures used for environmental communication, facilitation, and conflict resolution in a time of increasing societal demands on a limited resource base.
In fulfilling the mission, the Department focuses its instructional efforts on preparing graduate students to be leaders in the areas of parks and protected area management, tourism and commercial recreation, environmental communication, and human dimensions of natural resources. The Department conducts basic science that focuses on understanding human interaction with natural environments and applied research designed to contribute to management and leadership in decision-making. The Department complements the College's biophysical perspective by focusing on how human values, perceptions, attitudes and behaviors affect and are affected by natural resources and its management and decision-making.

Objectives of the Department
The faculty of the Department of HDNR are dedicated to excellence as scientists and teachers. The Department, through the actions of its faculty, staff, students and alumni, strives toward leadership locally, nationally, and internationally in the sustainable stewardship of natural resources. To that end, we strive to achieve the following objectives:

- To develop and maintain a program of instruction that recognizes current and future needs for knowledge in the subject areas that are elements of the total department program and to develop excellence in transmitting this knowledge to graduate and undergraduate students.
- To develop and maintain a program of basic and applied research directed toward the acquisition of new knowledge and problem solutions applicable to present and future societal needs.
- To maintain leadership and excellence in the human dimensions of natural resource management and leadership.
- To provide planned informal education programs to disseminate knowledge and research results and respond to opportunities to provide service to natural resource managers and the public within Colorado as well as nationally and internationally.
- To develop and maintain appropriate outreach and training opportunities for individuals not in residence at the University.
- To use faculty knowledge, skills, and experience to serve the University community and the private, public and nonprofit sectors within the State, national, and international communities.

THE GRADUATE DEGREES IN THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The graduate program in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources is designed to educate and develop professionals in social science aspects of natural resources. The program aims to develop professionals who will work and become leaders in the field both through research and practice. The Department offers two Master of Science degrees and one Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Through advanced studies in natural resources, the Master of Science (M.S.) degrees prepare students to understand and perform scholarly research in their chosen area, and aid them in their development as a professional who will utilize science throughout their career.
to help make quality decisions and advance the profession. The two M.S. degrees, Plan A and Plan B, are described more specifically in the next section of this handbook. The requirements for the program of study for both Master’s degrees are described beginning on page 13 of this handbook.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree prepares students to carry out independent scholarly research in the human dimensions of natural resources and to pursue careers in academia, public agencies, and private firms. Our goal is to prepare students who will be involved in creating and transferring knowledge about the profession during their career. The Ph.D. is described more specifically beginning on page 8 of this handbook. The requirements for the program of study for the Doctor of Philosophy degree are described beginning on page 13 of this handbook.

THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES (M.S.)

Two options are available for an M.S. degree in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources; a Plan A and Plan B option. Both require a student to complete a minimum of 36 semester credits beyond the bachelor’s degree. The Graduate School permits some credits to be earned from undergraduate courses at either the 300 or 400 levels. There is no limit to the number of undergraduate level of courses a graduate student may take, however, at least 16 credits earned in a graduate degree program at Colorado State University must be in 500 or higher level courses of which at least 12 credits must be in regular courses.

Plan A – General Description
A Plan A student is expected to conduct research based on an original idea and report the results in a thesis as partial fulfillment of degree requirements. After completion of the thesis, Plan A students are encouraged to submit their work to scientific journals as a way of disseminating the results of their research.

Plan B – General Description
Students selecting the Plan B option are required to produce a professional paper or project that takes the form of a technical report or other form acceptable to the student’s committee. Papers written under this option are primarily written for professionals such as agency managers, policy makers, or business executives. It is expected that some form of research supported by a conceptual framework will be conducted in order to produce this paper.

Scholastic Standards
An overall 3.0 grade point average (GPA) is required in the graduate program. A student whose GPA has dropped below 3.0 is placed on academic probation and has one semester to raise the GPA to 3.0. If the student’s GPA has not reached a 3.0 at the end of the probationary semester, the student may be dismissed by the Department or the Dean of the Graduate School. Grades of B or higher must be earned in all required courses on a Program of Study (GS Form 6). Grades of C or below do not count toward meeting degree requirements but will be counted in the overall GPA. Grades of “U” are not counted in the
overall GPA (as per CSU catalog) and are not counted toward graduation. Two consecutive semesters with “U” grades in thesis or research may be cause for dismissal.

The Graduate School (GS) Forms – Masters Degree
The Graduate School has a number of forms that the student is required to submit in a timely fashion throughout his or her time in the graduate program. The graduate student is responsible for insuring the appropriate forms are submitted on time. The primary forms for Masters Students include:

- **GS Form 6** – The program of study; this should be submitted before the time of the fourth regular semester registration at the latest.
- **GS Form 25** – Application for graduation; this should be submitted by the 6th week of graduation term for fall and spring semesters and the 1st week of the 8-week summer term.
- **GS Form 24** – Report of final examination; this should be submitted within two working days after results of the final Masters examination are known. This must be prior to the end of the 12th week of the graduation term for fall and spring semesters, and prior to the end of the 5th week of the 8-week summer term.

The graduate student should consult the Graduate School Handbook or website for other forms necessary in cases of committee or major changes.

The Advisor
Each student will have an advisor who is a faculty member in the Department. The advisor will assist the student in his or her progress through the graduate program. The advisor chairs the student’s committee and final examination. The advisor will work with the student to develop a thesis/professional paper proposal and quality drafts for committee review. Advisors supervise the preparation of the thesis/professional paper. The student is encouraged to present research at national and/or international meetings and to publish scientific articles.

The advisor will provide information to outside committee members about the Department’s graduate protocol, procedures, policies, and process. This should be accomplished early in the graduate program with the opportunity for the outside member to ask for clarification to decline their function as committee member.

The Graduate Committee
In partnership with the student’s advisor, a committee will be selected to help guide the student through the graduate program. The graduate committee should be appointed as soon as practicable and submitted to the Graduate School via GS Form 6 before registration of the fourth term of enrollment. Graduate committee members are responsible for helping plan the program of study, providing advice during the period of study and research, and administering the oral defense of the thesis/professional paper. It is the role of the graduate committee to develop the intellectual abilities of a student commensurate with an M.S. degree and to assure for the Colorado State Graduate School that the student has achieved the standards set forth by the Colorado State Graduate School.
A master’s committee is composed of at least three faculty members as follows: 1) the advisor who serves as chairperson of the committee, 2) one or more additional members from the department, and 3) any nondepartmental faculty member who may be appropriate. Affiliate and emeritus academic faculty from other departments, and faculty with joint appointments (not including HDNR) may also serve as outside committee members; however, all committee members must have a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., MBA or JD) in their area of expertise. Non-academic professionals or non-academic affiliate faculty may serve the student and the committee in an advisory capacity, but are not permitted to serve as formal committee members and are not allowed to vote at student examinations. The graduate committee must approve, by majority vote, the program of study, research proposals, and all committee examinations.

The selection of an outside committee member should be a reasoned and careful decision. Outside committee members from different sciences, disciplines, departments and universities bring different perspectives, philosophies, expectations, traditions and demands. For the student this offers both advantages and disadvantages. HDNR affiliate faculty represents internal committee members.

Since members of the Department faculty are typically on nine-month appointments, students should recognize that scheduling key meetings during the summer months are subject to the availability of committee members.

Changing the Graduate Committee
A student may change advisors and/or committee members. However, prior to making a change all involved parties should be contacted. The new advisor/committee member must agree to serve in this capacity. There may be times when an advisor and/or a committee member may need to dismiss themselves from a student’s committee. The advisor and/or committee member must notify the student in writing of his/her intentions to leave the student’s committee. It is the student’s responsibility to seek another advisor and/or committee member acceptable to the remaining committee members and the Department.

The Masters Thesis/Professional Paper Proposal - Suggested Outline for Graduate Research Proposals
Students will develop a proposal that is acceptable to the student’s committee prior to beginning research/work leading to the thesis or professional paper. A general statement of the research or problem area should be prepared prior to acceptance of the program of study (GS Form 6). Usually, a master’s student will have completed at least two semesters of course work before he/she is prepared to write a research/project proposal.

The thesis proposal may take any format deemed acceptable by the advisor and committee. It should describe the research problem, research objectives, the theoretical foundation driving the study (especially for a Plan A thesis), and methods for conducting the research. An approved proposal becomes a plan between the student and committee. Since research is a dynamic process, analysis procedures, hypotheses, etc. may change during the research process. Therefore the original proposal should be seen as flexible, with changes made to the research process being acceptable to the student’s advisory and advisory committee.
**Thesis/Professional Paper**

A thesis/professional paper is a demonstration of both solid scientific theory and methods. The thesis may take either the form of a 5-chapter document or at least one journal article of publishable quality for a refereed journal. The form of the thesis or professional paper is to be approved by the student’s graduate committee and must be consistent with Graduate School format requirements for a Plan A thesis. A copy of the Thesis Manual describing Graduate School requirements for formatting can be obtained from the CSU Graduate School.

**M.S. Final Defense/Examination**

At the discretion of the student’s advisory committee, the final examination for the Masters of Science Plan A and Plan B programs may be oral, written, or both. Masters candidates in the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources are to submit a written version of the thesis or professional paper for review by their committee, and if required by the committee, followed by an oral defense of the student’s work. All committee members will be present at this oral defense. At least 10 working days prior to the defense date, the master’s candidate must submit a draft of the thesis or professional paper to the advisory committee for their review. For the oral defense, a student should anticipate a 2- to 3-hour examination period during which a presentation of the research/project is given and questions are posed by the committee. The examination will be concerned primarily with the master’s topic, but additional relevant material (e.g., from coursework) may also be addressed. Other students, faculty, and interested professionals may attend the defense and ask questions of the masters’ candidate relevant to their work. However, they will be asked to leave prior to the committee’s deliberation about the candidate’s qualifications. The examination concludes with a closed session discussion among the committee members. A pass-fail decision based on majority vote and recommendations or requirements to complete the graduate degree will be discussed with the student at the end of the session. An example of requirements would be to change graphs, re-write sections or the entire thesis or additional editing. Students are responsible for the costs associated with copying, binding and filing the thesis/professional paper.

**THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE (Ph.D.)**

The Ph.D. in HDNR is a science-based program of courses and research degree that concentrates on theory, methodology and rigorous analysis. The doctoral program prepares students to carry out independent scholarly research in the human dimensions of natural resources and to pursue careers in academia, public agencies, and private firms. Our goal is to prepare students who will be involved in creating and transferring knowledge about the profession during their career. The doctoral program compliments the applied orientation of the bachelors and master’s degrees by focusing heavily on theoretical models and scientific investigation. Upon completion of the Ph.D., the student should be a highly competent scholar in his or her field of study and specialty and fully capable of making significant contributions to the bodies of scholarly knowledge in your area and in the human dimensions of natural resources as a whole.
General Description
Doctoral students are required to complete 72 semester credits beyond the bachelor’s degree. Credits earned previous to beginning the doctoral program may be applied as partial fulfillment of the doctoral degree. The student should consult the Graduate & Professional Bulletin provided by the CSU Graduate School for more specific information about the (a) relevant circumstances surrounding and (b) allowable number of credits that can be applied to the doctoral program. There is no limit to the number of undergraduate level courses a graduate student may take, however, at least 21 credits beyond a master’s degree must be earned at Colorado State University in 500 or higher level courses. Course work at the doctoral level is intended to provide the basic tools necessary for becoming a scholar. Theory courses should highlight major conceptual approaches that can be used to understand, explain and predict phenomena in the human dimensions of natural resource management. Methods courses provide the basic analytical tools necessary for systematically addressing theoretical and managerial problems.

Scholastic Standards
An overall 3.0 grade point average (GPA) is required. A student whose GPA has dropped below 3.0 is placed on academic probation and has one semester to raise the GPA to 3.0. If the student’s GPA has not reached a 3.0 at the end of the probationary semester, the student may be dismissed by the Department or the Dean of the Graduate School. Grades of B or higher must be earned in all required courses on a Program of Study (GS Form 6). Grades of C or below do not count toward meeting degree requirements but will be counted in the overall GPA. Grades of “U” are not counted in the overall GPA (as per CSU catalog) and are not counted toward graduation. Two consecutive semesters with “U” grades in thesis or research may be cause for dismissal.

The Graduate School (GS) Forms
The Graduate School has several forms that the must submit in a timely fashion throughout his or her time in the graduate program. The graduate student is responsible for insuring the appropriate forms are submitted on time. The primary forms for Doctoral students include:

- **GS Form 6** – The program of study; this should be submitted before the time of the fourth regular semester registration.
- **GS Form 15** – Notice of preliminary examination; this should be submitted at least one week prior to the exam.
- **GS Form 16** – Report of preliminary examination; this should be submitted within two working days after the results of the exam are known.
- **GS Form 25** – Application for graduation; this should be submitted by the 6th week of graduation term for fall and spring semesters and the 1st week of the 8-week summer term.
- **GS Form 23** – Notice of dissertation defense (final examination); this should be submitted two weeks before the examination.
- **GS Form 24** – Report of final examination; this should be submitted within two working days after results of the final Masters examination are known. This must be prior to the end of the 12th week of the graduation term for fall and spring semesters, and prior to the end of the 5th week of the 8-week summer term.
The graduate student should consult the Graduate School Handbook or website for other forms necessary in cases of committee or major changes.

**The Advisor**
Each student will have an advisor who is a faculty member in the Department. The advisor will assist the student in his or her progress through the coursework portion of the graduate program. In addition, Ph.D. students work very closely with the advisor on the conceptualization, administration, and reporting of research. This may go beyond research that the student conducts toward a dissertation. The advisor chairs the Ph.D. student’s committee, preliminary examination and final dissertation defense. The advisor will also discuss the student’s readiness to take the Ph.D. preliminary exam, work with the student to develop a dissertation proposal for committee review and supervise the preparation of the dissertation. The student is encouraged to present research at national and/or international meetings and to publish scientific articles.

The advisor will provide information to outside committee members about the Department’s graduate protocol, procedures, policies, and process. This should be accomplished early in the graduate program with the opportunity for the outside member to ask for clarification to decline their function as committee member.

**The Graduate Committee**
In partnership with his or her advisor, the student will appoint an advisory committee. The graduate committee should be appointed as soon as practicable and submitted to the Graduate School via GS Form 6 before registration of the fourth term of enrollment. Graduate committee members are responsible for helping plan the program of study, providing advice during the period of study and research, conducting the doctoral preliminary (comprehensive) examination, and administering the oral defense of the dissertation. It is also the role of the graduate committee to develop the intellectual abilities of a student commensurate with a Ph.D. degree and to assure for the Colorado State Graduate School that the student has achieved the standards set forth by the Colorado State Graduate School.

A **doctoral** committee is composed of at least four faculty members as follows: (1) the advisor who serves as chairperson of the committee, (2) one or more additional members from the department, and (3) any nondepartmental faculty member who may be appropriate. Affiliate and emeritus academic faculty from other departments, and faculty with joint appointments (not including HDNR) may also serve as outside committee members; however, all committee members must have a Ph.D. degree. Non-academic professionals or non-academic affiliate faculty may serve the student and the committee in an advisory capacity, but are not permitted to serve as formal committee members and are not allowed to vote at student examinations. The graduate committee must approve, by majority vote, the program of study, research proposals, and all committee examinations.
Changing the Graduate Committee
A student may change advisors and/or committee members. However, prior to making a change all involved parties should be contacted. The new advisor/committee member must agree to serve in this capacity. There may be times when an advisor and/or a committee member may need to dismiss themselves from a student’s committee. The advisor and/or committee member must notify the student in writing of his/her intentions to leave the student’s committee. It is the student’s responsibility to seek another advisor and/or committee member acceptable to the remaining committee members and the Department.

The Dissertation Proposal - Suggested Outline for Graduate Research Proposals
For the Doctoral program, students will, in consultation with their advisor, develop a proposal for research that is acceptable to the student’s committee prior to beginning research leading to the dissertation. Research proposals must describe research that demonstrates accepted standards of scientific endeavor on a subject judged by the committee to be worthy of scientific investigation. Usually, a doctoral student will submit his or her research proposal to the dissertation committee in the second or third year of their program; however, work on ideas for the proposal should begin early in the student’s program.

While the dissertation research proposal may take any format deemed acceptable by the advisor and committee, it should describe the research problem, research objectives, the theoretical foundation driving the study, and description of the methods for conducting the research. An approved proposal becomes an agreed upon plan between the student and committee. Since research is a dynamic process, analysis procedures, hypotheses, etc. may change during the research process. Therefore the original proposal should be seen as flexible, with changes made to the research process being acceptable to the student’s advisory and advisory committee.

The Dissertation
The role of the dissertation process is to provide the student with high quality learning, the opportunity for the student to demonstrate high quality scientific thought and skills, and a means for the committee to assess the student’s command of both solid scientific theory and methodology. The dissertation must contain original thought that advances the current body of scientific knowledge. The traditional format of a dissertation is a 5-chapter document, including an introduction, literature review, description of methods, description of results, and discussion. However, a series of refereed journal articles focused on a theme of research can also constitute a dissertation. The specific number of journal articles required for a dissertation will vary by situation; two articles, however, is the expected minimum for a dissertation from the Department of HDNR. All journal articles will be of sufficient quality for submission to peer-reviewed journals.

Doctoral Examinations
The doctoral degree is divided into two phases each culminating in an examination. The first phase culminates in the preliminary examination, this is the time when students will develop competency in your area of specialization. This phase will include coursework and the development of the dissertation proposal. The second phase culminates in the final doctoral examination/defense of the dissertation.
**Preliminary Doctoral Examination**

The Ph.D. doctoral examination process is designed to provide a measure of the candidate’s knowledge and integrative abilities. The candidate’s advisory committee conducts the exam within general guidelines of the Colorado State Graduate School and the Departmental guidelines discussed below. All committee members are required to participate in the examination process.

To be eligible to take the Ph.D. preliminary exam the student must complete the majority (80%) of all other course work. Usually, preliminary Ph.D. examinations must be taken at least two semesters before the doctoral final examination (dissertation defense). Both advisor and student must agree that the student is prepared to take the exam. The doctoral preliminary exam process involves two steps:

1. **A written exam**
   - The format of the written exam varies and will be determined by the student and advisory committee.
   - Written exam questions typically address the chosen area of specialization and supporting fields as well as questions that require a synthesis of materials relevant to the candidate’s entire education.

2. **An oral exam**
   - The oral exam is scheduled within two weeks of completion of the written portion. Each committee member shall be given copies of all questions and answers when the student has completed the written portion. The oral exam will be conducted after the committee has read the written responses.
   - The oral exam usually lasts approximately 2 – 3 hours. Questions may be wide-ranging, but will usually concentrate on the subject matter covered in the written exam and your area of work.

Both written and oral portions of the preliminary exam are conducted on a pass/fail basis. Each committee member has one vote. A majority vote of pass is a “pass” on the examination. A tie vote is a “fail” on the examination. If a student does not pass, he/she may be given one more opportunity – after a specified period of time of 2 to 12 months after the first exam – to retake preliminary exams. If the student fails the exam again, he/she will be dismissed from the program. Students are responsible for completing a GS 16 Form (Report of Preliminary Exam Results) to report the results of the examination to the Graduate School within 48 hours of the exam.

**Final Dissertation Defense/Examination**

A final defense is required for all Ph.D. students. All committee members are required to be in attendance. At least 10 working days prior to the defense, the candidate must submit a draft of their dissertation to the graduate committee. Any committee member who does not feel that the dissertation is of adequate quality to be defended should let the candidate and major advisor know at least one day prior to the scheduled defense, at which time the defense
may be postponed. Failure to provide such notice by any committee member does not imply or guarantee that the student will pass the defense.

For the defense, a student should anticipate a 2 to 3 hour examination period during which a high quality professional presentation of research is given and questions are posed by committee. The examination will be concerned primarily with the dissertation topic, but additional subject material from coursework may also be addressed.

Other students, faculty, and interested professionals may attend the defense and may be invited to ask questions about the dissertation. However, they will be invited to leave prior to the committee’s deliberation about the candidate’s qualifications.

The examination concludes with a closed session discussion among the committee members. A pass-fail decision based on majority vote and recommendations or requirements to complete the graduate degree will be discussed with the student at the end of the session. It is the student’s responsibility to assure that all Graduate School forms, deadlines, policies and procedures are followed. For example, the student is responsible for delivering the completed GS Form 24 (Report of Final Examination) to the Graduate School within two days of the time the results of the final exam are known. Students are also responsible for the costs associated with copying, binding and filing the dissertation.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY FOR THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The goal of the graduate program in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (HDNR) is to educate and develop professionals in social science aspects of natural resources and socio-ecological systems. The program aims to develop professionals who will work and become leaders in the field both through research and practice.

The graduate degree coursework provides students with a high degree of flexibility in their graduate education. With approval of their graduate advisory committee, students select courses from two primary areas of study. The first study area focuses on Quantitative and Qualitative Methods of Research and Analysis. These courses provide students with a background in the methods of developing, conducting, analyzing and interpreting the results of social science research and the use of a social science perspective in broader, integrative research of natural resources within coupled human-natural systems. Students have the option of taking a number of methods courses within HDNR as well as courses offered by other departments at CSU. The second primary area of study is Social Science Theoretical Perspectives. This area of study allows students to select coursework from within HDNR and across CSU that focus on the social sciences. With the approval of their advisory committee, students may select coursework from areas such as Communication, Sociology, Economics, Social Psychology, Political Science, Anthropology, Management, and others. A minimum of 9 credits from this area of study must be at the 500 or above course level. Students will also take additional Program Electives. For this section of their graduate program we encourage students to take coursework that contributes to their understanding of the integration of social and natural science perspectives, in particular ecological perspectives to inform studies and to provide a broader socio-ecological framework that provides the
foundation for critical examination of and robust contributions to current and emerging natural resource concerns. This section may also include additional coursework in quantitative/qualitative methods of analysis and/or social science theoretical perspectives as well as graduate seminars offered throughout the Department, College, and University. All students are required to sign up for thesis/project (NRRT699) or dissertation credits (NRRT799) to reflect time and effort spent conducting and writing up research required for their respective programs.

An example will illustrate the extent to which a graduate student can incorporate a number of social and methodological disciplines and courses into their program. A student wishing to focus his or her Masters Plan A graduate program on social psychological theory and persuasion would be required to take NRRT605 (Theoretical Perspectives in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources). He or she might then choose to take coursework from quantitative data analysis I (e.g., NRRT665) and II (e.g., NRRT765) as well as a course in psychometric measurement (e.g., PSY600). To cover his or her social science theoretical perspectives, this person might consider taking two graduate level courses in social psychology (such as a course in attitudes and a course in personality) and one course in communication (such as a course in attitude change and persuasion). A person who desires a focus on economics might, instead of one of the social psychology courses, take a graduate level course in ecological economics. To enhance his or her program, the student may choose to take a course in wildlife management, with additional coursework in qualitative research methods (e.g., NRRT666) and a course in anthropology. In accounting for work on his or her thesis, the student would sign up for 6 credits reflecting his or her research (NRRT699).

The table on the next page provides the course and other credit requirements for both Masters of Science degrees and the Doctor of Philosophy degree.
# Masters of Science Plan A, Masters of Science Plan B, and Doctor of Philosophy Programs for the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

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<th>HDNR Department Required Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>NRRT605 Theoretical Perspectives in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources</td>
<td>1 course</td>
<td>1 course</td>
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<td><strong>Total HDNR Department Required Course</strong></td>
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<th>Quantitative and Qualitative Methods of Research and Analysis</th>
<th>Minimum Quantitative and Qualitative Methods of Research and Analysis</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<td>Quantitative Data Analysis I (e.g., NRRT665, PSY652)</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantitative Data Analysis II (e.g., NRRT765, PSY653, STAT560)</td>
<td>2 courses</td>
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<td>Quantitative Data Analysis III (e.g., PSY792, SOC613)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods (e.g., NRRT666, SOC610)</td>
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<td>Geographic Information Systems (NR319, NR322)</td>
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<td>Psychometric Measurement (e.g., PSY600K)</td>
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<td>Sampling Techniques (e.g., ST305, NR421)</td>
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<td>Others with advisory committee approval</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Quantitative and Qualitative Methods of Research and Analysis</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Science Theoretical Perspectives</th>
<th>Minimum Social Science Theoretical Perspectives</th>
<th>PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others with advisory committee approval</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Social Science Theoretical Perspectives (at least 9 credits must be course level 500 and above)</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Electives</th>
<th>Minimum Program Electives</th>
<th>PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Socio-ecological systems</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional courses from Methods and Social Science Theoretical Perspectives</td>
<td>5 courses</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Credits with advisory committee approval</td>
<td>4 courses</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Electives</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Methods, Social Science, and Program Electives | **30** | **33** | **36** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis/Project/Dissertation Credits</th>
<th>Minimum Thesis/Project/Dissertation</th>
<th>PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRRT698/798 Research Credits (as needed)</td>
<td>As needed</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRRT 699 Thesis/Project Credits</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRRT799 Dissertation Credits</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Thesis/Project/Dissertation Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total credits from coursework and research credits | **36** | **36** | **42** |
| Credits from previously completed Masters Program | **30** | **30** | **30** |
| **Total Credits** | **36** | **36** | **72** |

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1 Students must be sure to comply with CSU Graduate School Requirements regarding the number of total credits and normal coursework required to be at or above level 500.
GRADUATE STUDENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are responsible for reading the HDNR handbook and for becoming familiar with both HDNR and Graduate School procedures and policies.

Students are responsible for assuring communication with their committee and the Graduate School, and for assuring all meeting arrangements, policies, forms, procedures and correspondence are handled in a way that is satisfactory to all parties.

Students should continually strive to acquire a thorough understanding of the scientific body of knowledge in their area(s) of interest. Such knowledge cannot be acquired by only doing assigned class readings. Outside reading from scientific journals and other texts can significantly enhance a student’s understanding of the Human Dimensions in Natural Resources field. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of our field, the selection of pertinent articles should extend beyond the major journals (i.e. Journal of Leisure Research, Society and Natural Resources, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, Leisure Sciences, Annals of Tourism, Environmental Education Research, Journal of International Wilderness, Journal of Ecotourism among others). Articles contained in the social psychology, sociology, communication, anthropology, education, history, philosophy, political science, natural resources, forestry, range science, wildlife and environmental health literature might also be incorporated into the student’s reading schedule. The college computer directory H:\RR Reference Articles contains over 3,500 articles categorized by concepts and subjects that is also available for student access and use.

Students will also find it helpful to strive to improve their working knowledge of at least one major statistical software package (e.g. SPSS, SAS). Similar to any foreign language, this knowledge base cannot be obtained by only doing the assignments in methodology and statistics courses. The faculty has data sets available for students to utilize to increase their analytical skills. Whenever possible, students may collect their own data sets to increase their understanding and working knowledge of research.

The library keeps many journals electronically. Therefore, students are encouraged to purchase or have access to the use of a computer prior to beginning graduate studies. A laptop computer may be very useful as they can be connected to many places on campus (library etc.). Computer laboratories are available to CNR students, these laboratories are also used for classes so access maybe restricted.

A student must have successfully defended his or her Masters thesis or project or Ph.D. dissertation and submitted the GS Form 24 prior to participating in graduation exercises.

Students are advised not to leave Colorado State University before meeting all degree requirements. Advisors of students who leave before completing all requirements have the option of removing themselves from the student’s committee.
GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Graduate Admission and Standards
The admission of student to the graduate program in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources is the dual responsibility of the CSU Graduate School and the Department. The Department follows the Graduate Schools admission requirements. The Department requires that:

- Potential students meet the CSU Graduate Schools admission standards.
- An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on the 4.0 scale.
- Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) above 1000 on the verbal and quantitative portions.

Application Deadlines
The Department admits graduate students for Fall admission only. Admission materials are due February 1st each year. Students interested in the HDNR graduate program are encouraged to apply early and communicate with faculty members.

Funding Availability
There is no guaranteed funding for graduate students in the Department. Two types of funding, (Graduate Teaching Assistantships [GTA] and Graduate Research Assistantships [GRA]), however, are available on a limited basis. Length of time in graduate school at Colorado State has no bearing on whether either type of assistantship (GTA or GRA) will be awarded to a student.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships
GTAs are awarded on a yearly basis by the Department chair. The chair makes his/her recommendations based on input from the Department faculty. Announcements for GTA positions are distributed electronically to all graduate students during each spring semester. Students seeking a GTA position must apply in writing to the chair of the Graduate Teaching Assistantship Selection committee. The entire faculty reviews all applications. Graduate Teaching Assistants are chosen for their skills, knowledge or expertise that allows them to deliver products or services leading to the enhancement of the Department.

The Graduate Teaching Assistant will be held accountable for delivering the expected services within the agreed time frame. Failure to meet expectations may lead to termination of the student’s GTA position, and reassignment to another student. Graduate Teaching Assistants are expected to work 20 hours per week for pay, and be available for meetings and consultations, as necessary, to fulfill their role in the Department.

It is University policy that all half-time teaching assistants must register for nine credits per semester; quarter-time teaching assistants must register for six credits per semester. Failure to register for the required number of credits will result in termination of the assistantship.
Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA)
GRAs are generated by outside funding and are awarded at the discretion of the principal investigator (PI) who is a member of the HDNR faculty. GRAs are typically awarded based on performance in class, student interests, past experience, and competencies.

Students awarded half-time funding on a GRA are expected to work a minimum of 20 hours per week as defined by the PI over the duration of their appointment, have all extended absences (5 days or more, or cumulative over 20 days for the duration of the project) from CSU approved by the project’s PI, meet all project deadlines and complete all assigned tasks within the agreed to time frame and register for at least one credit of graduate level course work for the fall and spring term (not including audits or “continuous registration” status). Failure to perform up to expectations may lead to termination of the student’s GRA position, and reassignment to another student.

Work at Other Institutions
The student should consult CSU Graduate & Professional Bulletin for a description of the requirements for transferring of academic credits.

Continuous Registration
All students admitted to a graduate degree program are required to be continuously enrolled in their degree programs in the fall and spring semesters. This policy applies from the time of enrollment through the graduation term. During the semester (fall, spring, or summer) in which the student will complete their degree requirements, he or she must register for continuing registration if not registered for graduate credit. Students registering for continuing registration will be assessed a fee for each semester of continuing registration.

Time Limitations
Courses to be applied toward fulfilling the requirements for the master’s and doctoral degrees, including any which may have been transferred from another institution, must have been registered for and completed within the ten years immediately preceding the date of completion of requirements for the degree.

Language Requirements
English is the language of instruction at CSU. Adequate knowledge of that language is expected. Students whose native language is not English should refer to graduate school requirements regarding TOEFL examinations or other means of demonstrating English language capability.

Publications
You are encouraged to publish results of your research with your advisor. In many cases, the graduate student will publish jointly with the thesis/dissertation advisor. Authorship of the paper should be discussed between the student and advisor(s). The advisor may take the lead in publishing thesis or dissertation research results if no written progress is provided by the student within 12 months of degree completion.
Completion of Degree Requirements in Absentia
Our experience tells us that you are less likely to complete your degree if you are not on campus and part of our scholarly community. Therefore you are strongly encouraged to complete all degree requirements before leaving campus. If extenuating circumstances exist, the student can petition the graduate committee, in writing, for permission to complete a graduate degree in absentia. When granting a student’s request for completion of degree requirements in absentia, the graduate committee will set a specific time and schedule within which the student must complete his/her work. Failure to complete the work in the specified time frame may result in dismissal from the program. An advisor or committee member may remove themselves from the committee in this instance.

Offices
A request for office space for HDNR graduate students is made by the student’s faculty advisor. Office space for graduate students is allocated in the following order:

1. GRA/GTA ½ time funded PhD
2. GRA/GTA ½ time funded MS
3. Student Hourly PhD
4. Student Hourly MS
5. Unfunded PhD
6. Unfunded MS

Keys
If a student needs a key to an office or front door of the building, the student must see the key manager for the department in the HDNR Main Office. All requests must be approved by the department head. Upon approval, the key manager will complete a Key Request Form. The key manager will contact the student when the key(s) may be picked up. If the student should lose the key(s), notify the key manager as soon as possible. The student must also go to the Facilities Key Management Desk and complete a CSUPD Lost Key Report. The student may be required to pay for the new key(s) to be made. When the student leaves the university or transfers to another department, the student must return the key(s) to the key manager. All keys remain the property of Colorado State University. Failure to return keys may result in legal action.

Mailboxes
Every graduate student is given a mailbox, located in F237. Any mail, faxes, deliveries or important documents delivered to the department will be placed in your mailbox.

Graduate Student Email Accounts
An email account must be set up through the College of Natural Resources and through the University. Students will be placed on a graduate student distribution list and receive important information from the Department, College and the University via email. Visit the following College of Natural Resources website for instructions on setting up an e-mail account: http://www.warnercnr.colostate.edu/computing/help/misc/acctinfo.html
**Conference Room**
The HDNR conference room, located in F236, is available to HDNR students and faculty on a first come first serve basis. Reservations must be made in the HDNR main office (F233). In addition, the CNR College Conference Room located in NR100 is available for students and faculty reservations can be made in the CNR Dean’s office (NR101).

**Office Supplies**
Office supplies are provided through department funding for instructional duties only. LCD projectors and slide projectors are available for checkout in the HDNR main office (F233). The department copier is available with the use of a copy code assigned to select students and faculty.