



M.S. and Ph.D. programs

How to Apply



The Department offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in two disciplines: Forest Sciences and Rangeland Ecosystem Science.

For best consideration, applications should be received prior to February 1 for Fall semester and October 1 for Spring semester.

You can still apply for the M.S./Ph.D. program if your undergraduate degree wasn't in natural resources.

[FAQs](#)
[Click Here](#)

Step 1. Explore Faculty Research Interests

Finding an advisor is a critical piece of the graduate application process. A great starting point is the [faculty profiles](#) on our website. Determine which faculty members within the department have similar research interests to your own. Read their recent publications for further information about their research.

Contact faculty whose research interests are closely aligned with your own to ask if they have an interest in accepting you as a student and if they have funding available for the term you wish to start.

Step 2. Apply Online and Pay Application Fee

The application is available online. Each application incurs a fee of \$60 for domestic applicants or \$70 for international applicants. If you are an active military member, veteran, or current Peace Corps Volunteer you may be eligible for an application fee waiver. Please complete the [Application Fee Waiver Request](#).





Required Application Materials:

- **Statement of Purpose** Be focused. Include your educational and long term career goals, and how the M.S. or Ph.D. programs will contribute to both.
- **Resume or CV** Outline professional employment, collegiate work, volunteer activities, and any publications, exhibitions, service activities, prizes, awards and other recognitions.
- **[GRE Scores](#)** No minimum score required.
- **[*Immigration Document Request Form](#)** *For international applicants only.
- **[*TOEFL/IELTS/PTE scores](#)** *For international applicants only.
- **[Official Transcripts](#)**
- **Three References** Provide contact information (email and phone number) for three references. CSU will contact these individuals and explain how to submit a letter of recommendation. The references should come from at least two of the following categories (for example, one college professor and two supervisors):
 - Previous or current college/university instructors
 - Previous or current immediate professional supervisors
 - Observers other than supervisors who can verify the specific impact of your professional or intellectual expertise.NOTE: Letters from friends, relatives or character witnesses are only supplemental to the three required reference letters.

Step 3. Order Transcripts

Request **official transcripts** from *every* institution you have attended, including institutions where coursework was brief and/or seemingly unrelated to the program(s) you wish to pursue. There are two exceptions:

1. You do not need to submit Colorado State University transcripts.
2. If you participated in a study abroad program through a U.S. institution, transcripts are required from the foreign institution only when the U.S. school does not list the course names, credits and grades on its transcript.

A GPA of 3.0 or above from the highest, most recent degree earned is required for admission into Graduate School. **All international transcripts must include a certified translation into English.**

Use institution code 4075 when requesting electronic transcripts. Application materials that *cannot* be uploaded electronically should be sent to:

Graduate Admissions
Colorado State University- Office of Admissions
1062 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO USA 80523-1062





Step 4. Order GRE scores Order TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores (if applicable)

An official report of your TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores is required of all international applicants from non-English speaking countries. CSU requires a minimum TOEFL score of 213 (computer based), 550 (paper based), or 80 (internet based), IELTS score of 6.5 or better, or a PTE score of 58 or better for admission without condition.

Copies of score reports issued to you or another party are not acceptable, but you only need to submit your official scores to CSU once regardless of the number of programs, departments, or colleges you are pursuing for admission.

The Education Testing Service, ETS, administers GRE and TOEFL exams. Request that your scores be sent to CSU when you take your exam. The institution code is 4075 and the department code is 0108. ETS will send your scores to CSU electronically where they will be automatically matched with your application(s). We generally receive your results within 4-6 weeks of your testing date.

If you did not initially request that your scores be sent to CSU, you can order additional reports by contacting ETS. Please see the [ETS website](#) for more information. ETS will send the reports directly to CSU; it generally takes 4-6 weeks for reports to arrive and be processed. See the [IELTS](#) and [PTE](#) websites to request scores.

ETS keeps GRE scores for five years, so in order to have an official report sent to CSU, your scores must be less than five years old. The CSU Graduate School will only accept TOEFL, IELTS, PTE scores taken within two years prior to admission.

Step 5. Follow up

Maintain contact with any faculty that expressed an interest in working with you and please be mindful of their schedules. If they inform you that they are not accepting graduate students for the semester you wish to begin your program, please explore other options.





When is the deadline to apply to graduate programs?

We have rolling admissions and evaluate applications as they arrive. However, space in the M.S. and Ph.D. programs is limited; for best consideration complete your application by February 1 for the Fall semester and October 1 for the Spring semester.

My undergraduate degree is not in natural resources. Can I still be considered for the graduate studies?

Yes, it is up to the faculty to determine if your undergraduate preparation is sufficient for their research program. They may require you to take more prerequisite courses to compensate, and in some cases faculty may ask an applicant to take more coursework before being accepted into the program.

Do I need to send transcripts if I didn't get a degree at the college, if the subject area was unrelated to the program I am applying for, if it was a very long time ago, or if it is a foreign university and difficult to get transcripts from?

Yes! We require official transcripts from **every** institution you have attended, regardless of how long ago it was, how relevant the material studied is to your current interests, and whether or not you completed a degree at that institution. This includes any dual credit and community and technical colleges. There are two exceptions: 1) you do not need to submit Colorado State University transcripts with your application; and 2) if you participated in a study abroad program through a U.S. institution, transcripts are required from the foreign institution only when the U.S. school does not list the course names, credits and grades on its transcript. We do **not** need copies of your high school transcripts.

Can I send a photocopy of my transcripts?

No, we must have official copies of all your transcripts.

Is there a form for the letters of reference?

No, there is no form for the letters of reference.

How do I get an assistantship?

Whether or not you are offered an assistantship is dependent on your advisor. When a faculty member offers to serve as your advisor, ask them if they have funding available for an assistantship.

How will I know when my application is complete?

Applicants can [view the status of their application](#) at any time to ensure your application checklist is complete or check on updates.

More questions?

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