



Julian Cheatham Hall

Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation

Graduate Programs

www.frec.vt.edu

We encourage applicants to submit their complete applications, including supplemental materials, early to allow sufficient time for application processing. **Acceptance** deadlines for domestic applicants are July 15 for fall and December 15 for spring. The Graduate School must accept international applicants no later than May 15 for fall and October 15 for spring to allow sufficient time for immigration processes and travel.

Additional information about graduate programs in our department may be obtained by contacting:

**Dr. Janaki Alavalapati, Head
Department of Forest Resources
and Environmental Conservation**

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The Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation (FREC) at Virginia Tech is one of the top programs in natural resource management in the United States. Our graduate science and management programs are diverse and approach critical natural resource issues from many disciplinary perspectives. From the management of protected areas and economic policy to forest soil productivity, urbanization, and genomics, we seek to discover new knowledge and technology to address the global challenges to come.

The department has approximately 25 faculty, 6 postdoctoral associates, 8 research and extension associates, and 7 support personnel. Over 75 graduate students are enrolled in the areas of:

- *Forest Biology*
- *Forest Biometrics and Geomatics*
- *Forest Economics, Policy, and Management*
- *Forest Genetics and Biotechnology*
- *Forest Hydrology and Watershed Management*
- *Forest Operations and Business*
- *Forest Soils, Silviculture, and Ecology*
- *Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management*
- *Natural Resource Recreation*
- *Urban Forest Ecology and Management*

The department is housed in Cheatham and Latham Halls on the central campus, where the bulk of teaching and research activities take place. Specialized research facilities for plant physiology and biochemistry, forest soils, remote sensing and spatial data analysis, water resources, and computer applications are maintained in Cheatham and Latham Halls. In addition, the department maintains a 710-acre field research facility for biological investigations at the Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources Research Center in Critz, Virginia.

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Established in 1993 as the ninth college at Virginia Tech, the College of Natural Resources And Environment provides facilities and personnel for teaching, research, and outreach to approximately 690 undergraduates, 150 graduate students, and hundreds of public and private groups, industries, and agencies. The college is comprised of four departments: Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Geography, Wood Science and Forest Products, and Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

VIRGINIA TECH AND ENVIRONS

Founded in 1872 as Virginia's land-grant college, Virginia Tech is a comprehensive, innovative research university with an enrollment of over 25,000 students, the largest full-time student population in Virginia. Graduate work is offered in more than 70 fields of study leading to the Master of Science degree and in more than 50 fields leading to the Ph.D.

The university is located in Blacksburg, a town of 36,000 situated in scenic southwestern Virginia. The 2,600-acre campus lies on a plateau between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, 2,100 feet above sea level. The area is noted for its natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities. Located nearby are Mountain Lake, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Roanoke and Shenandoah Valleys, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, and the Appalachian Trail. Commercial air service is provided into Roanoke, 40 miles to the east.



GRADUATE DEGREES IN FREC

Graduate studies cover a diverse array of forestry and natural resource sciences from remote sensing and geospatial analysis to biotechnology and carbon modeling. Faculty and students participate in one or more focus areas with common research goals. The department offers three graduate degrees: Master of Forestry, Master of Science in Forestry and Forest Products, and Ph.D. in Forestry and Forest Products.

Master of Forestry

The M.F. is a non-thesis degree aimed particularly at practicing professionals who desire to further their education. Minimum residency requirement is two semesters. Candidates must prepare a degree paper for which 3 to 6 credits will be given toward the 30-credit-hour minimum for the degree.

Master of Science

An M.S. degree prepares the individual to seek employment in his or her area of specialty, or it may provide background for continuing study toward the Ph.D., since it is research-based.

Minimum requirements for the M.S. include 30 total semester hours of credit, of which at least 20 hours must be graded. Research and thesis credits for the M.S. range from 6 to 10 hours.

Doctor of Philosophy

The Ph.D. is a research degree in which students specialize in a supporting discipline. The Ph.D. prepares candidates for employment primarily in teaching and/or research.

Each Ph.D. student must complete at least 90 credit hours, with a minimum of 30 graded hours and at least 27 5000-level or higher hours. In addition to the course work and research requirements, Ph.D. students are required to successfully pass the preliminary and the final comprehensive examinations.

Additional Ph.D. options are available through the college-wide Geospatial and Environmental Analysis (GEA) program and the inter-college Molecular Plant Sciences (MPS) Program. In both programs, students are assigned the same home department as their major advisor. GEA combines cutting-edge

geospatial science with environmental analysis to enhance research on a broad range of contemporary natural resource and environmental issues.

For further details visit: <http://cnre.vt.edu/students/graduate/degree-programs/geospatial/index.html>. In the MPS program, students use molecular approaches to understand how plants grow and interact with their environments. Additional details can be found at <http://www.molplantsci.org.vt.edu/>.



APPLICATION PROCESS



Students are strongly encouraged to apply online. This streamlines the

application process and reduces processing time. Applicants must pay a \$65 non-refundable fee. Students are encouraged to contact faculty in their research interest area prior to application. Additional information is available at www.grads.vt.edu.

The GRE (Graduate Record Examination) General Test is required for all applicants to the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. Also required is a passing grade on a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) for applicants who did not receive their bachelor's degree from an American, Canadian, or British university and whose first language is not English.

Test scores should be sent to the Graduate School. Scanned transcripts will be required during the online application process; however, please do not mail official transcripts until you have received an offer of admission from Virginia Tech.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to have online recommendations completed. Names and email addresses for each reference may be provided in the online application. If applicants choose to have paper letters of recommendation submitted, the letters should be sent directly to the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, ATTN: Graduate Coordinator, 313 Cheatham Hall (0324), Blacksburg, VA 24061 U.S.A.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We offer very competitive stipends for graduate students pursuing M.S. or Ph.D. degrees; on occasion, stipends may also be available for non-research M.F. degrees.

All students on assistantship receive a waiver of academic-year tuition, and highly qualified students are considered for several departmental fellowships.

Virginia Tech offers enhanced benefits to graduate students on assistantship by covering 90% of the cost of an individual student medical policy at the \$100,000 rate. Additional details are available on the Graduate School website: www.graduateschool.vt.edu.

