

Department of Animal & Range Sciences

Ph.D. Degree in Range Science

Other important stipulations may be in the Graduate Catalog and online at <<http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/>>. Final approval of a student's program resides with the Graduate School.

Admission

- GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Completion of the form, "Application to the Graduate Program in Range Sciences," including a brief letter outlining the student's background, career goals, and research interest.
- GRE exam is required.
- Evaluation for admission will be by consensus of the Range Science Graduate Admissions Committee.
- Prerequisite for admission as a regular graduate student in the department is the completion of a curriculum substantially equivalent to that required of undergraduate students. Therefore, deficiency courses may be required after admission to the program, as determined by the admissions committee and the student's graduate committee and advisor.

General Requirements

- Students on assistantship must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout their program.
- Students with graduate assistantships must enroll in at least 9 graduate credits (450 or above, none audited, & only 3 S/U) per semester, but not more than 15 per semester.
- Students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language or research tool, such as experimental statistics, computer science, or mathematics, as approved by the student's graduate committee.

Graduate Ph.D. Program

- Qualifying Exam
 - The exam is scheduled by the student's advisor, and administered by a provisional committee of at least 3 total regular range science faculty.
 - It should take place during the first semester of graduate work.
 - Its purpose is to evaluate the student's strengths and weaknesses, determine deficiency courses, and discuss a possible program of study (coursework).
- Coursework
 - A minimum of 30 credits of graduate work plus 18 credits of dissertation (RgSc 700) are required to graduate.
 - At least 15 credits must be in courses numbered 500 or above.
 - At least 15 credits must be from the Range Science program.
 - Two semesters of RgSc 515 (Seminar) are required. One may be taken from another department with permission of student's graduate committee.
 - No more than six credits of RgSc 698 may apply toward graduation.
 - The "Program of Study and Committee for Doctoral Students" form, listing the graduate committee and courses to be taken, should be filed with the Graduate School after completion of 12 credits and after the qualifying exam, and before registering for additional courses.
- Comprehensive Exam
 - The exam is intended to test the knowledge of the major and minor fields of study.

- The student will be admitted to the exam after fulfilling the language/research tool requirement, after completion of adequate coursework (as determined by the department and the Graduate School), and when considered by the student's graduate committee to be adequately prepared.
- The exam is part written and part oral.
- The student is formally considered a candidate for the Ph.D. only after the successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the recommendation of the committee, and the approval of the graduate dean.
- Dissertation
 - The research project must be approved by the student's graduate committee.
 - The dissertation is expected to demonstrate the student's ability in independent investigation and to be a contribution to human knowledge.
 - It shall display a mastery of the literature, present an organized, coherent development of ideas with a clear exposition of results, and provide a critical discussion of the student's conclusions.
 - The form and style of the dissertation must comply with regulations given in Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation.
 - Every effort should be made to publish the dissertation as a scientific journal article or Experiment Station publication.
- Final Exam
 - The exam is concerned primarily with the research work of the student as embodied in the dissertation, but it may also extend over the entire field of study. It is entirely oral.
 - The final exam will be advertised to the public one week prior to the exam.

Graduate Committee

- The graduate committee is selected by the student and the student's advisor, with approval of the Department Head and the Graduate Dean. The committee will consist of five or more members, as follows:
 - The committee chair (advisor) and at least two other members must be from the Range Science regular faculty.
 - At least one member must be from another department, and may serve as the dean's representative.

Outline of Required Events to Complete the Ph.D. Degree

- See time schedule online at <<http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/Guidelines/disstimeschedule.html>>
- Enroll for first semester.
- Take the Qualifying Exam (or equivalent) before completion of the first semester.
- Meet with graduate committee no later than second semester to outline planned coursework and to discuss planned research.
- File the "Program of Study and Committee for Doctoral Students" no later than after the completion of 12 credits of graduate work.
- Fulfill the language/research tool requirement.
- Complete course work.
- Take the Comprehensive Exam. The form must be filed with the Graduate School at least 10 working days before exam.
- Complete the research and write the dissertation.
- Take the Final Exam. The form for this must be filed with the Graduate School at least 10 working days before the exam. Copies of the dissertation must be delivered to each committee member at least seven working days prior to the exam.
- Disposition of the dissertation: See guidelines and time schedule online.