



**school of natural resources and environment**

# Graduates and their Careers





## School of Natural Resources and Environment

Florida is a bellwether state for challenges and opportunities related to ecology and the environment. Population growth, rapid change, and competing uses and values make Florida's natural resources nationally and internationally important. The diversity and depth of UF's academic expertise relating to ecology and environment is extraordinary. SNRE, through its campus-wide reach, is committed to enhancing the understanding of the interaction of natural systems and society and to develop intellectual capacity to address the environmental and natural resource issues facing Florida, the nation, and the world.



The School of Natural Resources and Environment is a university-wide program in ecology, environmental sciences, and sustainability, hosted by IFAS in collaboration with the colleges of Agricultural and Life Sciences; Business Administration; Design, Construction, and Planning; Engineering; Health and Human Performance; Liberal Arts and Sciences; Journalism and Communications; Law; Medicine; Veterinary Medicine; the Center for Latin American Studies; and the Florida Museum of Natural History.



This report on current and former students in the school of Natural Resources and Environment was prepared by James Cato, Senior Associate Dean and Director, Steve Humphrey, Director of Academic Programs and Patrick Heck, Communication Specialist and Graduate Student.

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## Introduction

The School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) is a relatively new program at the University of Florida. The first undergraduate students were admitted in 1995 and the first class of graduate students joined them four years later during the 1999 academic year. These newly created interdisciplinary degree programs have provided an attractive alternative to students seeking an interdisciplinary approach to academics. More than 500 students have successfully completed one of our degree programs, preparing them for careers in government, environmental science and engineering, non-profit management, corporate business, and academia. The growth of the School of Natural Resources and Environment degree programs affirms the belief in interdisciplinary studies as a means to open doors and is confirmed by the achievements and professional placement of our graduates.

The vitality of the SNRE program stems from our diverse and successful student body. During their tenure at the University and following graduation, students have demonstrated their ability to address the many challenges facing the natural world.

Given the growing numbers of SNRE alumni, we began tracking and analyzing our student's professional activities following their graduation. In 2007, a survey was conducted to analyze the activities of currently enrolled domestic and international graduate students. Results from the survey provided information for this report. Additionally, we contacted all of our undergraduate and graduate alumni to find out what they are currently working on and where they are located. For example, a majority of undergraduate alums work for Florida government agencies or private firms in the state, while students who leave Florida have an impact on business and policy nationwide. This research helps us advise incoming students regarding possible career tracks when they have completed the selected SNRE degree.



SNRE is a stepping stone for career opportunities because today's employers are dedicated to hiring young professionals who think about issues holistically and with an open mind. Recent graduates applaud SNRE's diverse coursework and flexible degree options, as well as our focus on real world issues and the interaction between the natural, social and built environments. This report presents our degree programs, student body and alumni achievements in a way that demonstrates SNRE's commitment to academic excellence and our strength as an interdisciplinary degree program.



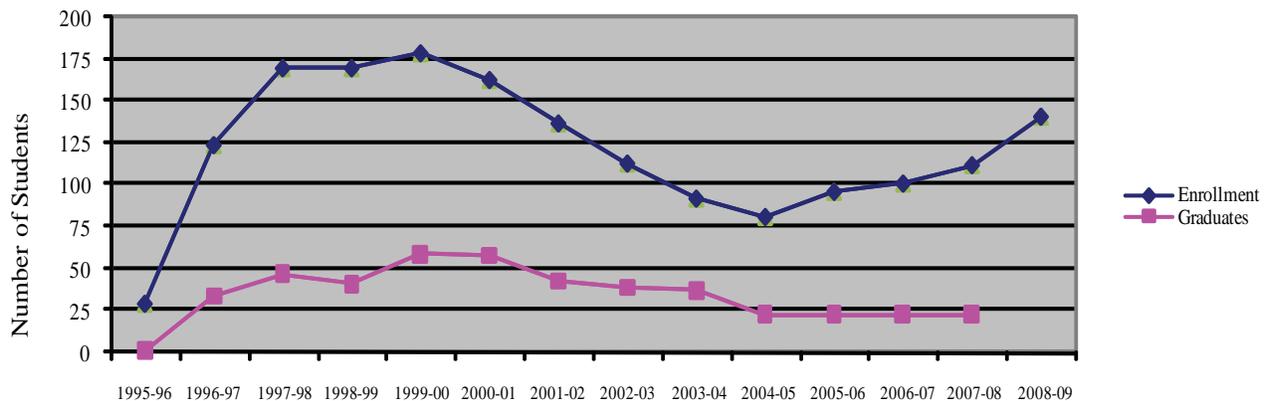
## Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Students seeking a well-rounded, interdisciplinary approach to education will find an excellent degree in Environmental Science. Whether you're looking for a career in a scientific profession or one in law or business, a degree in Environmental Science will help you prepare to face any challenge.

Environmental Science brings together professors and programs throughout the entire university, so you are not limited to a specific environmental field. Many of our graduates enter the job market as soon as they complete the program. They work for environmental science and engineering companies, government agencies, or non-profit organizations. Others go directly into a graduate school to pursue a scientific or social science degree or into a professional school such as law.

Most students seek the Bachelor of Science degree, which offers specializations in Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management, Toxicology, Environmental Policy (environmental law), Environmental Policy and Business, and Environmental Education. Some, however, prefer the Bachelor of Arts and can still select any specialization above except Toxicology.

**Enrollment and graduates in Environmental Science, BS and BA, 1995-2008**



"The most valuable aspect of my B.A. is the interdisciplinary nature of the coursework. This perspective has allowed me to see and move around within the bigger picture, not boxing me into one specific area of specialization...enabling me to be involved in vastly different projects as they present themselves or as they pique my interest. I know I can follow any path I choose...and I don't need 15 degrees to do it!"

--Shani Kruljac, B.A. 1999, was awarded the Foreign Language Areas Studies (FLAS) fellowship, worked in Brazil, and is currently working on her M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning



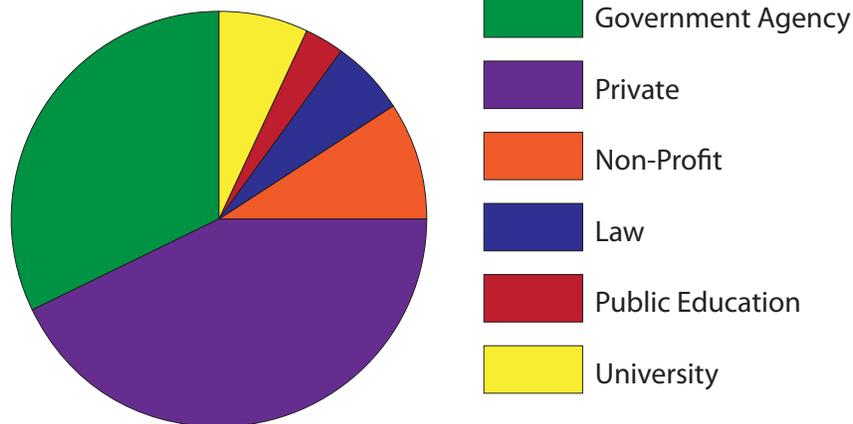
## Stepping Stone to an Exciting Career

Students within the Environmental Science program graduate with the preparation to tackle today's challenges. Through hands-on experiences, diverse coursework, and strong academic leadership, students leave with practical knowledge and the skills needed to become managers and leaders on a range of environmental issues.

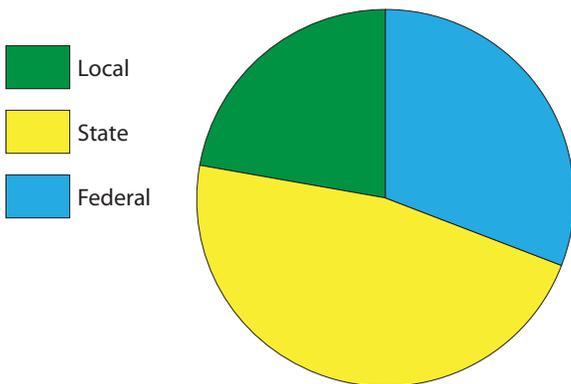
Environmental Science graduates find successful careers in a number of fields, including local, state and federal management agencies, environmental consulting firms, corporate environmental offices, environmental science and engineering firms, non-governmental/non-profit organizations, and university programs such as sustainability offices. The private sector employs 44% of SNRE Environmental Science graduates, and 32% work in management agencies.

## Type of Employment of Environmental Science Graduates

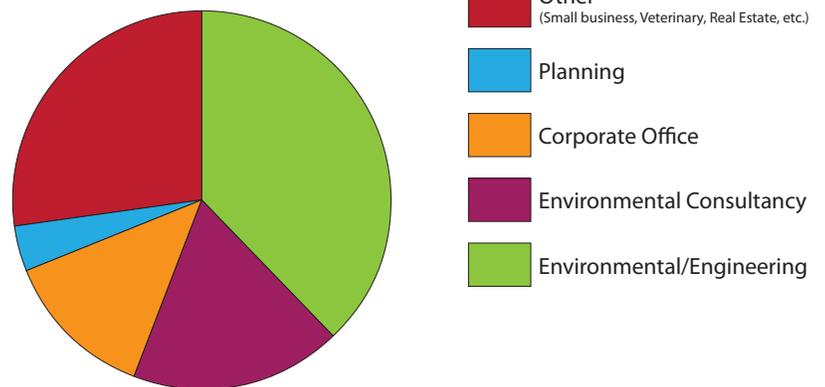
Current or Last Known Employment



Employment by Type of Government Agency



Employment by Type of Private Firm





"I am positive I made the best decision, ever, when I picked the Environmental Science program at UF. I've been nothing but happy with all the opportunities that it has provided for me and will continue to provide for me in the future."

--Kelly Sheba, B.A. 1999, became a Department of Defense scientist and designed and implemented a program concerning the outbreak of West Nile in New York City

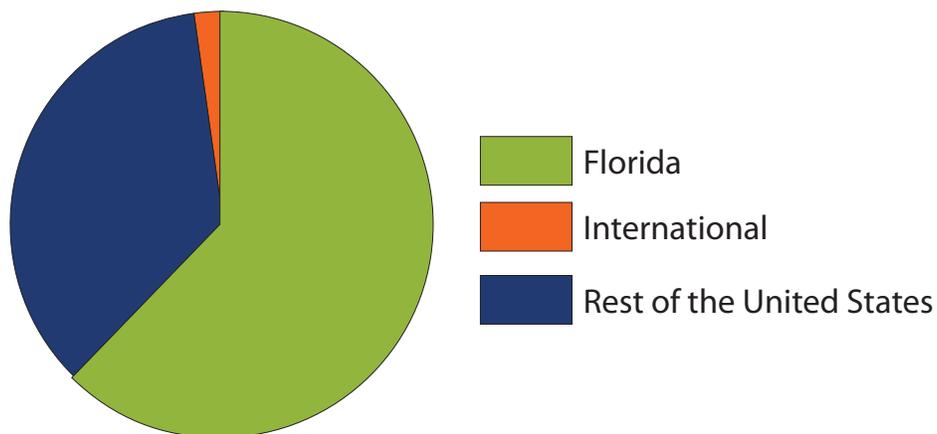
## Foundation for an Advanced Degree

More than 40% of our undergraduate students go on to receive graduate degrees. Many enter graduate or professional school to pursue degrees in a wide range of fields including:

- Law
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Natural Resource Management
- SNRE/Interdisciplinary Ecology/Environmental Science
- Earth and Life Sciences
- Journalism/Communication

## Geographic Distribution of Environmental Science Graduates

- Students have found employment in 27 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and more than 5 countries.
- More than 60% of undergraduates find employment in the state of Florida.





## Graduate Degree (M.S. or Ph.D.) in Interdisciplinary Ecology

This degree program is designed for students desiring an interdisciplinary academic program related to the environment. It does not replace the University's existing graduate programs in agriculture, architecture, engineering, life sciences, and social sciences; but uses expertise throughout the University in developing a strong, holistic environmental curriculum.

A graduate student in Interdisciplinary Ecology is hosted in one of 43 participating and available departments. Through 2008, 32 of these departments had hosted a SNRE graduate student. The student's academic advisor is one of 300 faculty members affiliated with the School of Natural Resources and Environment. The cross-departmental composition of the student's Supervisory Committee and of the curriculum empowers the student to take an unusually broad, challenging program of study. The curriculum includes more than 360 graduate courses.

Masters and Doctoral students engage in interdisciplinary thinking in natural resources and the environment by combining (1) coursework in the basic and applied science of ecology and the social, political, and economic sciences with (2) competence in an approved program in one of these fields of study.

In a 2007 survey, the SNRE Interdisciplinary Ecology graduate students were asked to state advantages that they felt an Interdisciplinary Ecology (IE) degree would provide them in their future professions. The responses were classified under several recurrent themes.

- Provides the student with an interdisciplinary /systems/holistic analytical skills
- Creates communication skills across discipline boundaries and ability to work in interdisciplinary teams.
- Networking among disciplines is an advantage.
- Improves ability to get a job.
- Provides a wide range of technical skills.
- Improves ability to work in different geographic regions.

### SNRE Core Courses include:

- Two courses in advanced ecology
- Electives from subject areas of resource-related natural science, environment-oriented social science, and human sustainability studies
- Research Methodologies
- Graduate seminars

"The coursework gave me a grasp of the issues at hand, as well as the concerns and opinions of others. I graduated with fellow SNRE students that I continue to be close friends with today. The experience was positive and I now work in a diverse field that I enjoy."

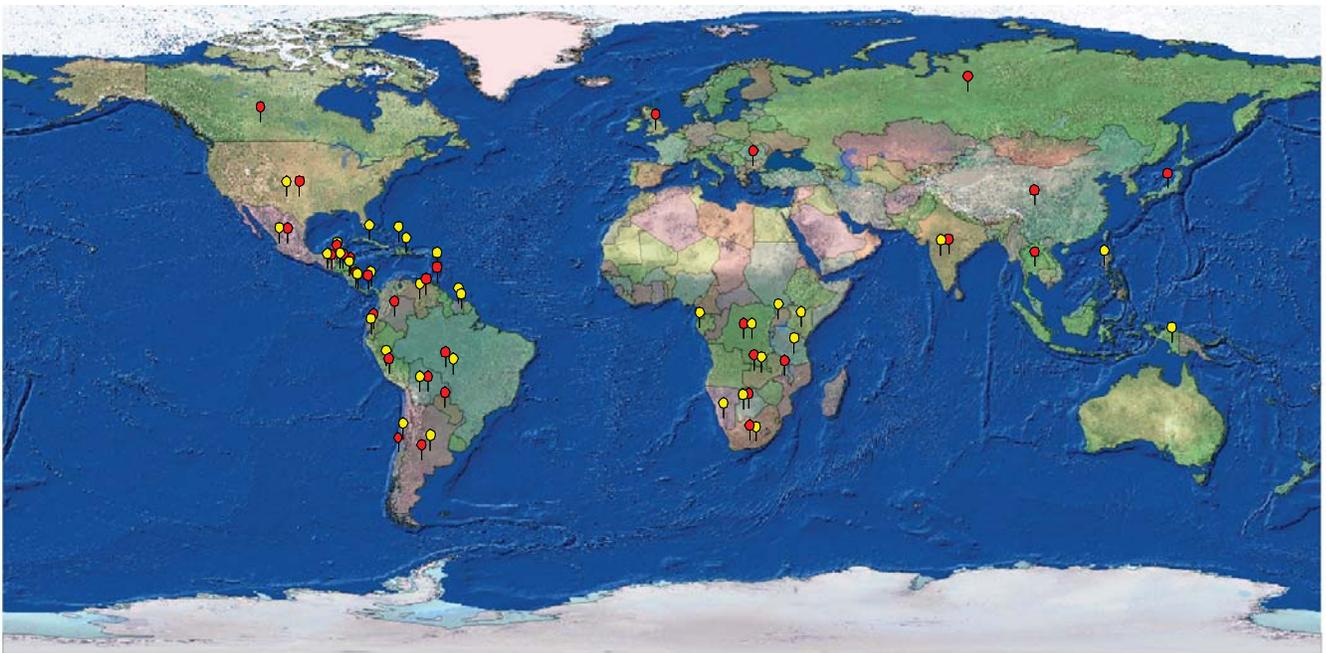
--Candace Dorn, B.S. 2005, currently an environmental scientist with the Shaw Group a firm from Jacksonville, FL



## A Holistic Approach to Real-world Problems

Environmental problems are fundamentally human problems and should be understood in terms of human motivations and actions in a biophysical context. Their solution requires holistic thinking about dynamic ecological systems and the social, economic, and political forces driving human action. To this end, the goal of the Interdisciplinary Ecology graduate program is to provide advanced training in ecosystems thinking and the main theories and methodologies of the biophysical and social sciences to foster integrative approaches to complex real-world problems.

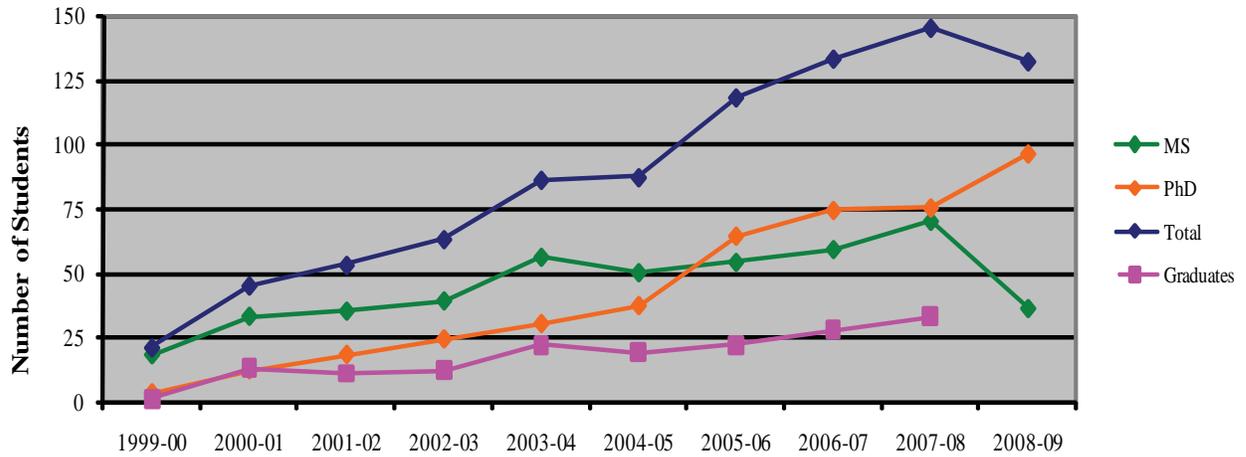
The Interdisciplinary Ecology degree program attracts outstanding graduate students from all fields of study. SNRE graduate students find the program appealing because of its integrative nature, cross-departmental affiliations, availability of funding, and the particular faculty associated with the program. Interdisciplinary Ecology students represent a broad array of research interests and come from both domestic and international backgrounds. About 50% of the graduate students do their research outside the US, and 25% of the graduate students come from outside the US. SNRE international students come from Latin American (57%), Asia (17%), Africa (14%), and the Caribbean (4%). The presence of so many international students greatly enriches the academic community and enlarges its research boundaries. SNRE Interdisciplinary Ecology alumni totaled 125 through 2007; 106 were MS graduates and 19 were PhD graduates.



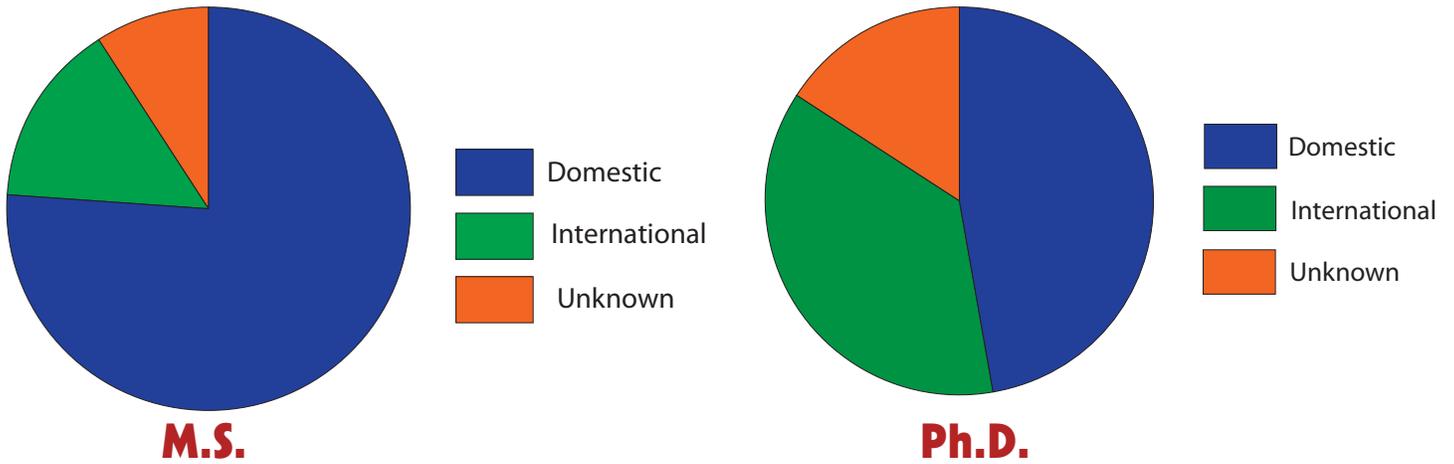
Countries of origin (red pins) and sites of research (yellow pins) for past and present SNRE graduate students show the global recruitment and interest of the SNRE program.



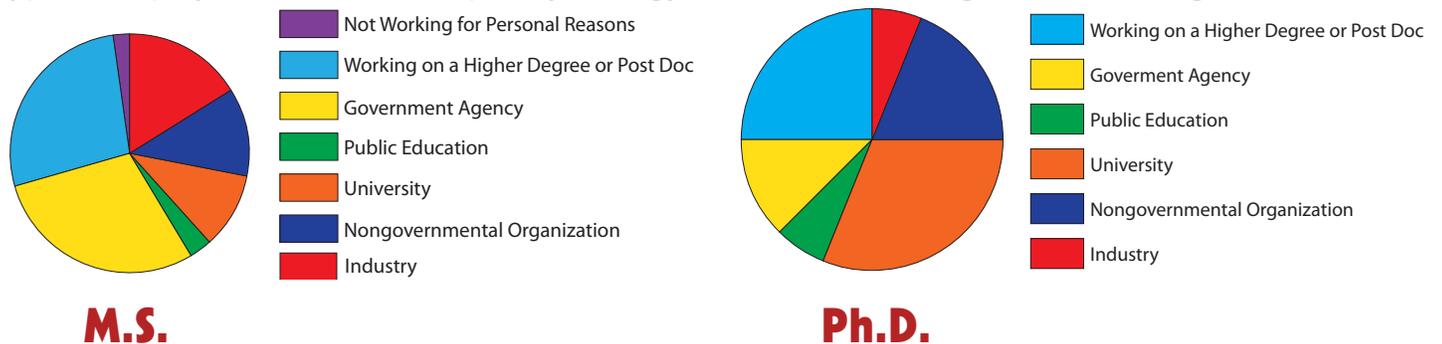
### Enrollment and graduates in Interdisciplinary Ecology, MS and PhD, 1999-2008



Places of employment for Interdisciplinary Ecology students that have graduated through 2007.



Type of employment for Interdisciplinary Ecology students that have graduated through 2007.





## Affiliate Faculty

All SNRE graduate students are placed with an affiliate faculty advisor at the time they are admitted into the degree program. This ensures dedicated and focused faculty advisement from the start. The breadth and depth of host departments or units for all the past and current graduate students is shown below. The research of SNRE students organically forms programmatic foci distributed across the advisors' departmental disciplines. The focal areas that interest most students can be summarized as dynamics of linked ecological-social systems, land-use ecology, ecological restoration, growth management and sustainable practices, environmental education, international development, and environmental management.

SNRE graduate students from (graduated and currently enrolled )1999 to June 2008 by department or school of affiliate faculty advisor.

Department	Number of Students	Department	Number of Students
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation	54	Geological Sciences	4
Forest Resources and Conservation	41	Sociology	4
Food and Resource Economics	32	Agronomy	3
Geography	16	Entomology and Nematology	3
Botany	15	Tourism, Recreation, and Sports Management	3
Environmental Engineering Sciences	15	Agricultural Education and Communication	1
Soil and Water Science	15	Horticultural Science	1
Anthropology	14	Statistics	1
Family, Youth and Community Sciences	13	Philosophy	1
Florida Museum of Natural History	10	Civil and Coastal Engineering	1
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences	9	Landscape Architecture	1
Latin American Studies	8	Urban and Regional Planning	1
Political Science	7	Building Construction	1
Zoology	7	Advertising	1
Environmental Horticulture	5	Journalism	1
Agricultural and Biological Engineering	5	Physiological Science	1



## Financial Support

SNRE graduate students are funded through a variety of sources. About 45% of the students are funded by SNRE assistantships funded through state appropriations, about 40% through grants obtained by their affiliate faculty advisor or by external sponsors, and about 15% are self-funded. External sources of financial support for students (who must apply directly to them) have included:

- Fulbright Fellowship
- LASPAU: Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas Fellowship
- Organization of American States Leadership Fellowship
- Organization of American States Ecology Initiative Fellowship
- U.S. Agency for International Development Scholarship
- CNPQ Fellowship, Brazil
- CONACyT Fellowship, Mexico
- International Ford Fellowship
- Wildlife Conservation Society Graduate Fellowship
- University of Florida Tropical Conservation and Development Fellowship
- Compton Fellowship
- Dexter Fellowship

## On-Campus Organizations

Graduate students have opportunities to engage with organizations on campus that promote their areas of interest. For example, the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program in the Center for Latin American Studies advances biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, and the welfare of rural people in the tropics through interdisciplinary graduate education, research, and collaborative learning and practice. TCD offers an interdisciplinary certificate program. Students gain a knowledge base that includes an understanding of tropical ecology, social science theory, and integrative approaches to conservation and development.



The Center for African Studies promotes excellence in teaching and research on Africa in all the disciplines at the University of Florida. The Center also disseminates knowledge about Africa to the wider community through an integrated outreach program to schools, colleges, community groups, and businesses. Central to this mission is sustaining contacts and expanding interactive linkages with individuals and institutions on the African continent. In addition to undergraduate education, the Center promotes and supports graduate studies as essential for the development of a continuing community of Africanist scholars.



## How to Apply

All undergraduates apply through UF. Once admitted you may select Environmental Science as your major (or minor). For application details, visit <http://www.admissions.ufl.edu/index.html>.

Students interested in the Interdisciplinary Ecology graduate degrees should visit our website for more information about the application process <http://www.snre.ufl.edu/graduate/application.htm>



**For more information, visit <http://snre.ufl.edu>**

"SNRE has been an amazing stepping stone; giving me a broad education so I can work in Zoology, Ecology, Wildlife & Conservation, and Anthropology. Having a mixed perspective gives me an advantage in the work place."

--Carrie Vath, M.S., 2008 (see photo on previous page)