Graduate Program Objectives:

1. Improve student credentials for entry and advancement in private and public sectors
2. Prepare students for entry into professional schools and doctoral programs
3. Help teachers advance in school systems and enrich the classroom experience
4. Train students to address environmental, ecological, biological, and agricultural issues in their political contexts.

Program of Study

The Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences offers a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Environmental and Biological Sciences. The Master's program offers two concentrations: 1) Environmental Sciences and 2) Biological Sciences.

Students may earn their M.S. degree for either concentration through the non-thesis or thesis option.

The non-thesis M.S. requires completing 36 semester hours and passing written comprehensive examinations. Full-time students can earn their degree in four semesters (Summer, Fall, Spring, Summer). Part-time students generally require two years, including summers.

The thesis M.S. (30 semester hours) typically requires two years for the completion of coursework, a research thesis, presentation of a research seminar, and defense of the thesis. Students work closely with graduate faculty members during the research process.

Most graduate courses (6000-level) are offered during the evenings and Saturdays to make the program accessible to students who are working during the day. Graduate courses are taught during the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.

Research Facilities

The Department provides opportunities for students to conduct a wide range of field and laboratory research projects. Research facilities include a herbarium, greenhouse, and arboretum. The Department is fully equipped for conducting both laboratory and field research. Cooperative agreements with other universities and consortia exist to provide additional research opportunities not available on the Troy campus.

Location

TROY is located in the southeastern region of Alabama known as the Wiregrass. Troy, Alabama is a 150-year old community of some 15,000 residents. The center of town is within walking distance of the campus. Extensive forested lands, nearby lakes and rivers, and the Gulf of Mexico offer opportunities for both recreation and research.

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Career Opportunities

More than 125,000 new positions are being created each year in the environmental and biological fields. Some of these opportunities include:

- Environmental chemist/scientist
- Not-for-profit advocacy groups
- Environmental consultant/modeler
- Public Health/Industrial Hygienist
- Air and water quality management
- Parks and outdoor recreation
- Solid and hazardous waste management
- Urban and rural land use planning
- Land and water conservation
- GIS (geographical information systems)
- Environmental journalism/law
- Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist
- Endangered Species Management
- Agricultural/Invasive Species Scientist
- Botanical/Zoological Garden Manager

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