Odum School of Ecology
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Instructions for the Graduate School Application

Thank you for your interest in the Odum School of Ecology for your graduate work. We've put together this short set of notes to help guide you through the Graduate School's online application.

Before you begin the application

Please have the following documents and information on hand before you begin your application.
- Address for the last 2 years
- Dates that you began and completed your undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) degrees
- Unofficial transcripts (to be uploaded)
- Your CV (to be uploaded)
- Statement of Purpose (to be uploaded)
- Recommenders' first and last names with contact information
- Employers' dates of employment, position, description
- Permanent residents only: permanent residency card (I-485 if applying)
- ICON only: ICON essay (to be uploaded)
- Optional: senior thesis, research paper (to be uploaded)

Create an account and password

At the start of the process, you'll be asked to create an account with your email address and a password. After you make your account, you'll be able to logout and return when you wish.

The Application

Below we provide specific instructions (when necessary) for each part of the application.

Program Selection:
- Campus: Athens
- Program: Doctoral or Masters
- Program name: choose one of the following:
    - PHD, Ecology (School of Ecology) [PHD_ECOL]
    - PHD, Integrative Conservation (Eugene P. Odum School of Ecology) [PHD_ICON_EC]
    - MS, Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development (School of Ecology) [MS_CESD]
    - MS, Ecology (School of Ecology) [MS_ECOL]

- Intended Term: FALL [We can facilitate early matriculation in the summer, and can defer some admissions to the Spring, but all applicants should choose "Fall" and then email any special considerations to the Graduate Program Advisor.]

Personal Background:
 This should be self-explanatory.

Citizenship and Residency:
 This should be self-explanatory, except for:
- Georgia Residency: *Are you applying for in-state tuition?*
  - If you are a legal resident of Georgia, then choose "yes". Then answer the Georgia-specific questions.
  - If you are not a legal resident of Georgia, then choose "no", and choose your country of residence

Educational Background:
 This should be self-explanatory.

Additional Information:
 This should be self-explanatory, except for:

- Financial Assistance: Do you wish to be considered for financial assistance from your academic program? Yes
  - The Odum School of Ecology will ensure that you have some form of support before we will admit you to our program (e.g., as a TA or RA or via a fellowship).
- Other Programs/Institutions: It helps us evaluate our program by also knowing what other programs you are applying to, so we've very much appreciate you responding to this question.

Test Scores:
 We do not require the GRE, and you should NOT upload any GRE scores.

Resume, Statement of Purpose, Writing Sample, etc.:
- *Resume/CV*. Please upload your CV. Your CV should include your educational background, research experiences, posters and talks presented at scientific conferences, publications in scientific journals, and manuscripts that are in preparation or in review.
- *Statement of Purpose*. Please disregard the guidance provided on the online form. This essay (one page, single-spaced) carries great weight in the admissions decisions and should identify your educational, research and career objectives, specify your general area(s) of interest, articulate the fundamental concepts that underlie those interests, and outline potential research problems and approaches. Your statement should be well-organized and concise, and demonstrate your knowledge of, and ability to articulate, important problems in your discipline. Portions of this statement should read like a succinct research proposal.
  - *Please list 1-3 potential major professors at the end of your Statement of Purpose whose lab(s) you are interested in joining.*
- *Writing Sample:* We do not require a writing sample; however, if you wish to share reprints of publications, your senior thesis, or any research paper, you should combine them into a single PDF and upload that file here.
- *Program-specific Supplemental Materials:* If you are applying to the IDEAS or ICON programs, this is where you should upload your supplemental essay.
  - *ICON students: In addition to uploading your essay here, also send it to the ICON program and your preferred advisor by email.*

Recommendations:

Three letters of recommendation must be submitted using the online system as part of your application. You must provide a valid e-mail address for each recommender. Please make sure that your recommenders have indicated that they are willing to write you a letter of recommendation before you apply. Also keep in mind that it is your responsibility to ensure that your recommenders have submitted their letters by December 1 (and ideally a few days prior to Dec 1, as there is a short time-lag before we have access to your application materials). Each recommender will receive an email notification with login information when you enter their information and click the submit button for that field.

If you are a UGA undergraduate and are applying via the DoubleDawgs program, one of your three letters must come from your prospective MS faculty advisor.

Employment:

This information (at least the info that is relevant) should already be in your CV, so you can ignore this section.

Honor Code and Privacy Policy:

This should be self-explanatory.

Payment:

This should be self-explanatory.

That's it. We will begin reviewing applications on December 1. We expect to have created a long-list of potential applicants by early January and will invite a subset of those applicants for an interview (usually in late January). We hope to start making admissions decisions by early February. We will do our best to keep you informed about the process, but you may also email the Graduate Program Advisor if you have questions. We encourage you to reach out to us to check on the status of your application before you accept any other offers. If we make you an offer, you will have until April 15 to accept or decline that offer. Most other (reputable) institutions have agreed to this deadline and should not pressure you for an earlier decision – of course, the earlier we know your decision, the earlier we can finalize our decisions. If you decline our offer (although we hope you do not), we expect to make an offer to another student on our admissions list.

Good luck. We appreciate that applying to graduate school is both an exciting and sometimes harrowing process, and we will do all we can to ensure that the process at the Odum School is straightforward and transparent. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Best wishes,
Odum School of Ecology
Graduate Program