

**Welcome!**

**Davis College of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources and Design**

**Graduate Student Orientation**

# WVU Breakdown

- Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design
- Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Business and Economics
- College of Creative Arts
- School of Dentistry
- College of Education and Human Services
- Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources
- College of Law
- Reed College of Media
- School of Medicine
- School of Nursing
- School of Pharmacy
- College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences
- School of Public Health

# School of Agriculture and Food

## Animal & Nutritional Sciences

- Animal & Food Science, PhD
- Animal Physiology, MS
- Nutritional and Food Science, MS
- Reproductive Physiology, MS, PhD
- Graduate Dietetic Internship, M.S.

## Plant & Soil Sciences

- Agronomy, MS
- Applied and Environmental Microbiology, MS
- Entomology, MS
- Genetics and Developmental Biology, M.S, PhD
- Horticulture, MS
- Plant Pathology, MS
- Plant and Soil Sciences, PhD

# School of Natural Resources

## Forestry and Natural Resources

- Forestry, MSF
- Recreation, Parks and Tourism Resources, MS
- Wildlife and Fisheries Resources, MS
- Forest Resources Sciences, PhD

## Resource Economics and Management

- Agricultural and Resource Economics, MS
- Human and Community Development, PhD
- Natural Resource Economics, PhD
- Resource Management, PhD

# School of Design & Community Development

- Agricultural and Extension Education, MS
- Design and Merchandising, MS
- Landscape Architecture, MLA

- Human and Community Development, PhD
- Agricultural and Extension Education, PhD

# Masters of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design

## -non-thesis college-wide masters degree

# MS in Energy Environments

## -non-thesis college-wide masters degree

# Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Spatial Analysis - Graduate Certificate



# Associate Provost of Graduate Education and Life

- Dr. Katherine Karraker
- Office of Graduate Education and Life
- Top floor of the Mountainlair
- <http://graduateeducation.wvu.edu/home>
- Sets policy and procedures as it relates to graduate education
- Oversees the university-level graduate council
- Manages university-wide scholarships and grants

# Davis College Administration

- 4100 suite of Agricultural Sciences Building
- Dean – Dr. Dan Robison
- Associate Dean of Research – Dr. Jason Hubbard
- Associate Dean of Programs – Dr. Matt Wilson
- Associate Dean of Academic Affairs - Dr. Todd Petty
- Graduate Records Officer – Ms. Wendy Daly
  - 4108 Agricultural Sciences
  - Very Important Person!

# Division Directors

- Animal and Nutritional Sciences – Dr. Kim Barnes
- Plant and Soil Sciences – Dr. Sven Verlinden
- Forestry and Natural Resources – Dr. Robert Burns
- Resource Economics and Management – Dr. Alan Collins
- Design and Community Development – Dr. Peter Butler

# What if I have a question / problem?

- You should be able to ask your advisor about ANYTHING
- If you have trouble with your advisor, then your division director is your next resource
- If you still have questions after talking you your advisor and director, then the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (Todd Petty) is your next resource
- Please, do not bypass your advisor and director. They can help with 99% of issues that arise most effectively.
- Wendy Daly can help with any questions regarding your transcripts, necessary forms, ETDs, and university deadlines.

# Committees & Graduate Faculty

- The graduate committee has primacy in graduate education – they decide on your coursework and the content of your thesis
- **MS committees** – 3 members, at least 2 are regular graduate faculty from your “program”
- **PhD committees** – 4 members, at least 3 are regular graduate faculty
- The list of graduate faculty can be found starting on page 16 of the Davis College graduate student handbook.

# Deadlines & Requirements

- **Plan of Study** — completed by the end of first semester of study for MS students and end of the first year for PhD students
- **Thesis proposal** — There is no formal proposal requirement; but strongly recommended; completed by the end of the first semester for MS students and end of first year for PhD students (highly variable among programs)

# Deadlines & Requirements

- **Application for Graduation** – approximately three months prior to graduation date; posted on the Davis College graduate education website; link to apply in DegreeWorks
- **Shuttle Sheet Request** – submitted two weeks prior to final examination for MS students and three weeks prior to final examination for PhD students
- **Oral Defense** – completed before ETD submission of thesis, which is usually required approximately two weeks before graduation
- **ETD Submission of Thesis/Dissertation** – deadline each semester set by the WVU library – usually 10 working days before graduation

# How long should it take me to graduate?

- Highly variable among programs
- MS: 2-2.5 years
- PhD: 3-5 years



# Academic Standards

- All graduate students must maintain an overall GPA  $> 2.75$  to graduation
- A GPA  $\geq 3.0$  is required on all coursework on the plan of study

# DegreeWorks

- Link on the student portal
- Advisor
- Degree program
- “Formal” requirements for your degree
- Coursework that you have completed and that is “in progress”

# Assistantships

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)** — assist with teaching courses and labs; departmentally funded; rare in our college
- **Graduate Research Assistant (GRA)** - assists in research with faculty advisor; external grant funding; most common form of support in our college
- **Graduate Fellowships (PhD)**- university awards; merit based; application procedures on the OGEL website; many of these are decided at the associate dean level first

# Tuition Waivers

- “Scholarship” that covers the cost (full or partial) of university tuition
- GTAs and GRAs receive full university tuition waivers
- The college also disburses approximately 200 hours of “merit” tuition waivers each semester to students that are not on a GTA or GRA
- Tuition waivers do not cover the cost of university fees or college tuition
- **Requests for merit waivers must be made through your advisor** to your director; if you do not have an advisor, then you must get one

# Enhancement and Travel Grants

- Grants are available from \$500-\$1,000 to support research endeavors and travel to conferences and meetings.
- <http://www.davis.wvu.edu/pay-for-college/gradgrants/available-grants>
- Deadline is typically in March of each year – grants will cover expenses from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
- Considering moving to a “rolling” application process; look for more info soon

# Advice from previous graduate students

- Make friends hold writing days together to hold everyone accountable.
- Pay attention to deadlines and stay organized.
- Choose a thesis/research topic as soon as possible.
- Collaborate outside your program with other graduate students.
- You are all in the same boat, ask questions, someone else probably has the same question!
- The best degree is a done degree.
- Focus on developing technical skills. There is no better time to do it.
- Be active in the Davis College grad student association!

# Questions?