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 Hubbart
- 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 posted on Davis College website
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

*** deadlines posted on Davis College website
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](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?