1. Program Description

The Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology program is a research-based interdisciplinary graduate program leading to a doctor of philosophy degree. The program consists of faculty from the College of Science, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, and the Desert Research Institute. The program promotes education in theoretical, experimental, and applied aspects of ecology, evolution and conservation biology. The overarching goal of the program is to produce Ph.D. level scientists with the best technical skills and place them in superior positions in academia, government, and the private sector. Students examine the ecology, evolution and conservation biology of organisms and ecosystem processes of the Great Basin, the Sierra Nevada and throughout the world. Student research encompasses a broad range of biological techniques and levels of ecological complexity, including investigations of individual organisms, populations, species, communities and ecosystems.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will understand the theoretical and empirical basis of ecology, evolution, conservation biology, and related fields.
- Students will obtain knowledge of the application of computer tools, conceptual and analytical models, data analysis techniques, and field and laboratory procedures.
- Students will develop an ability to articulate scientific concepts and results in written, graphical, and verbal formats.
- Graduates will secure positions in their field upon graduation.

**Contact Information**

Lee Dyer, Ph.D.
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(775) 784-1360

Elizabeth Leger
Associate Director of the Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology Graduate Program
eleger@cabnr.unr.edu
(775) 784-7582

**Tracks**

Only the PhD in EECB is offered at this point.
2. Degree requirements

**EECB CURRICULUM**

Most students take courses listed in BIOL, NRES, GEOG, and EECB. Full-time graduate enrollment with a standard ½ time (20 hours/week) TA or RA is six (6) credits. See the Graduate School for exceptions.

See full details on all curriculum requirements, including other requirements for the completion of your written dissertation, in the EECB bylaws at:

http://environment.unr.edu/eecb/resources/index.html

As with much of your course of study, additional or different requirements are at the discretion of your advisory committee. Current course requirements are as follows:

**Required Courses**

**EECB 750 Research Design:** Offered each spring TBA, but it is strongly recommended that you take this as early as possible in your graduate career.

**EECB751 Introduction to Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology:** Offered each fall TBA, this is a new required course effective for students beginning Fall 2011 and after.

**EECB 701/702 Research Rotation:** Research rotations are intended to provide students with experience in areas other than the student’s area of specialization. One -(1) rotation is required for students without a Masters degree, and none (0) is required for those with a Masters degree.  *(Formerly, the requirement was for two (2) and one (1) rotations, respectively. This change is effective for students beginning Fall 2011 and after, and may be retroactive for current students at their committee’s discretion.)*

**700-level courses:** A minimum of 30 credits for 700 level courses, excluding dissertation credits, is required. Credits may be transferred from previous graduate work; see the graduate credit evaluation request online through the Graduate School [http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/](http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/)

**EECB 794 Colloquium:** Attendance at the weekly EECB colloquium is expected; however, you must also take colloquium as a class four times for one (1) credit each time (4 credits total).

**Teaching:** All students must participate for two (2) semesters as a Teaching Assistant in undergraduate laboratories or courses. TA experience prior to joining EECB may be accepted, as may other teaching experience at your committee’s discretion. Because TAs are handled per department and not through EECB, it is often difficult to obtain positions in departments other than your own. If you have a preferred class to TA, talk to the prof in charge.
Statistics: You are required to complete six (6) units in statistics. Previous courses may apply, at your committee’s discretion. Note the following recommendations and talk to fellow grads before you choose a class.

Statistics and potentially useful classes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APST</td>
<td>Advanced Applied Stats and Economics (2</td>
<td>Schonkwiler</td>
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<tr>
<td>714/715</td>
<td>semester course)</td>
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<tr>
<td>APST</td>
<td>Design and Analysis of Experiments</td>
<td>Fernandez</td>
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<td>663</td>
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<tr>
<td>APST</td>
<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
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<td>612</td>
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<tr>
<td>APST</td>
<td>Multivariate Statistical Methods</td>
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Applied Economics & Statistics

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<tr>
<td>STAT</td>
<td>Applied Regression Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>757</td>
<td>Analysis</td>
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Statistics

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<tr>
<td>STAT</td>
<td>Advanced Analysis Methods in Natural</td>
<td>Weisberg</td>
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<td>746</td>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>Gustin</td>
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<td>NRES</td>
<td>Survivor skills for graduate students in</td>
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<td>720</td>
<td>the sciences</td>
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Geography
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 607</td>
<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
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<td>GEOG 634</td>
<td>Biogeography</td>
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<td>GEOG 640</td>
<td>Mountain Geography</td>
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Mathematics

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<th>Course #</th>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 757</td>
<td>Applied Regression Analysis</td>
<td>Aban</td>
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<td>ANOVA?</td>
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<td>Calculus</td>
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Psychology

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<th>Course #</th>
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<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 706</td>
<td>Intermediate Statistics I: ANOVA</td>
<td>Wallace</td>
<td>***</td>
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**Graduate School Academic Requirements:**
All graduate students must maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0. If their GPA drops below 3.0 they are either placed on probation or dismissed. Undergraduate courses will not count towards graduate GPA. **Probation:** students whose cumulative graduate GPA is .1 to .6 points below that needed for a 3.0 GPA are put on probation. Students are placed on academic probation for one semester. If they fail to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 by the end of one semester, they are dismissed from their graduate program. Thesis, dissertation, S/U graded credits, and transfer credits have no impact on a student’s GPA. **Dismissal:** students whose cumulative graduate GPA is .7 or more grade points below that needed for a 3.0 GPA are dismissed. Dismissed students are no longer in a graduate program but may take graduate-level courses as a Grad Special. Students wishing to complete their degree must obtain approval to take
graduate-level courses, raise their graduate GPA to at least 3.0 and then re-apply to a graduate program. Any courses taken to raise their GPA will be included in the graduate special/transfer credit limitation (9 credits for master’s degrees).

3. **Transfer credits**
These are credits transferred from another institution. Credits completed at UNR in another program or as a graduate special do not need to be transferred. Transfer credit is requested on the Graduate Credit Transfer Evaluation Request form available on Graduate School website [http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/GraduateCreditTransferEvaluationRequest.pdf](http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/GraduateCreditTransferEvaluationRequest.pdf), and must be signed by the student, major advisor, and graduate director. Transfer credits applied to a master’s program must comply with the time limitation on master’s work (6 years). Thus, if a student took a course five years prior to admission, they would have to complete the degree within one year for the course to apply to the degree. Credits from a completed master’s degree will be exempt from the 8-year time limitation for those students earning a doctoral degree.
4. Timeline for degree completion

**Year 1**

First Semester
- Complete your entrance interview
- Transfer your previous graduate credits through the Graduate School if applicable
- Recommended courses—Colloquium (EECB 794), Introduction to Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology (EECB 751)

Second Semester
- Form your official committee
- Submit your declaration of advisor through the Graduate School
- Submit your program of study through the Graduate School
- Recommended courses—Colloquium (EECB 794), Rotation (EECB 701), Statistics (course recommended by committee)

**Year 2**

First Semester
- Recommended Courses—Colloquium (EECB 794), Statistics (course recommended by committee), other courses recommended by committee

Second Semester
- Recommended Courses—Colloquium (EECB 794), Research Design (EECB 750), other courses recommended by committee

**Year 3**

By the end of the third year, doctoral students should complete the comprehensive exam and have their dissertation proposal approved by their committee.
- Submit your comprehensive exam scores and information
- Obtain your dissertation proposal approval
- Advance to candidacy through the Graduate School

Program Changes
- Change your program of study
- Change your advisory committee
- Request a leave of absence

**Years 4 & 5**

Students should be finished with their course work (i.e., signed up only for dissertation credits and possibly colloquium) and focused on research, grants (especially the NSF dissertation improvement grant) and publishing. No forms are required.

**Graduating (Year 5 or 6)**
- Schedule a public defense presentation and a defense meeting with your committee
● Complete your doctoral degree notice of completion through the Graduate School
● Review the dissertation filing guidelines for the Graduate School
● Submit your dissertation title to Graduate School
● Review important deadlines and milestones for graduation

Submit Progression Forms
You will need to complete these EECB program-specific progression forms over the course of your studies. Check the program timeline to see when these forms—and additional graduate school forms—are due.

Steps for Submitting Your Progression Forms
1. Download and print the form:
   ○ Entrance Interview (Year 1, First Semester)
   ○ Official Committee (Year 1, Second Semester)
   ○ Comprehensive Exam (Year 3)
   ○ Dissertation Proposal Approval (Year 3)
2. Complete the form and obtain required signatures
3. Create an electronic version that can be submitted on the website

Links to required forms
Links to required forms for EECB and the graduate school are located at this site: http://www.unr.edu/eecb/degree-and-admissions/program-timeline

An updated list of forms and requirements:
http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms

All course work must be completed within eight years preceding the awarding of the degree. Credits transferred into doctoral degree from a completed master's degree are exempt from this eight-year limit.

5. Committee selection guideline

EECB Student Officers

Officers for the following academic year are nominated, assigned, or coerced at the end of each spring (details of each position circulated at that time). Most students hold one office per year. All of these jobs are important and some are actually fun – don’t let anyone tell you otherwise!

Student positions and committees (2013-2014)
(positions become effective July 1st of each year)
**EECB Student President** (1)
**Representatives to Faculty** (2)
**Colloquium logistics committee** (3)
**Colloquium nomination committee** (4)
**New Student Orientation Committee** (1-2)
**Ecolunch Coordinators** (2)
**LISTSERV and Paper Board Maintenance** (2)
**Website committee** (3)
**Peer-Review Group Coordinator** (1)
**Outreach Coordinator** (2)
**GSA representative**
**Jenkins Award committee**

**Provisional Advisory Committee**

Beginning Fall 2011, each new EECB student will have an entrance interview with a provisional advisory committee. This committee is different than the advisory committee.

**Advisory Committee**

Each student will assemble an advisory committee consisting of at least 5 total members including your major advisor, 3 or more additional EECB faculty members, and one Outside member acting as representative of the Graduate School. Regular committee members may be outside of the Nevada System of Higher Education system; check with your committee and the Graduate School if you would like an outside-NSHE committee member. The Outside member (Grad School representative) of your committee must be a graduate faculty (i.e., not adjunct, lecturer, etc.) that is neither a member of EECB nor your home department (i.e., Biology, Natural Resources, etc.). Think of who in other departments/programs may be fun to interact with a bit, depending on your focus and interests—Math, Chemistry, Environmental Literature, Geography, Philosophy, Education, etc.—when trying to find an Outside member.

**Doctoral Programs:** Consist of a minimum of five graduate faculty members; the chair, at least two faculty members from the student’s major department/program, at least one faculty member from a department in a field related to the student’s major, and at least one Graduate School representative.

In case of **interdisciplinary graduate programs**, the Graduate School Representative cannot have a primary appointment in the same department (or other appropriate major unit) as the student's committee chair.

Formal approval of all student advisory committees is made by the Graduate Dean

6. Comprehensive exams
The comprehensive exams (comps) are required of all Ph.D. students to advance to Ph.D. candidacy, and involve two phases, written and oral. You must have an advisory committee, program of study (list of completed and anticipated courses) filed with the Graduate School, and have completed at least 75% of required courses prior to taking comps. Early in EECB history, comps were administered for each cohort simultaneously by a faculty committee, and as such involved broad topics that were less specific to each student’s curriculum and interests. In recent years this format has changed, and comps are now administered by your committee and overseen by the EECB director(s). Comps policy and procedure updates are pending given the termination of the Examination Committee; however, the general guidelines are as follows. Any student who wishes to deviate from these rules, for whatever reason, must submit a written request through his/her advisor to the EECB director(s) detailing the reasons for the request.

When the exams are taken. Students entering the EECB program with a Master degree (or similar advanced degree) will take the comprehensive exam no later than the end of their second year in the program. Students entering the program without a Master degree (or similar advanced degree) will take the comprehensive exam no later than the end of their third year in the program. In keeping with the bylaws of the UNR Graduate School, EECB graduate students are responsible for assuring that they have completed 75% of their required course work before taking the comprehensive exam. Requests for exception to the above must be made in writing from the student’s advisory committee to the program director(s). The oral comprehensive examination will be taken no later than six months after successful completion (passing) of the written exam and after submission of dissertation proposal to the advisory committee.

Written comprehensive examination. The written examination covers subject areas that include Ecology, Evolution, Conservation Biology, and Experimental Design and Analysis. Students should expect to be examined in all four subject areas. The examination is designed to be taken over a four day period. Each exam element (each day) is designed to take about four hours to complete, but students will be given their exam at 8 AM and must turn in their answers by 4 PM on the same day. Each of four faculty from the advisory committee will design and provide questions, although all advisory committee members may contribute questions to the exam, as agreed to by the committee. The format of the examination and the number of questions is determined by the individual faculty member in consultation with other members of the advisory committee. The examination will usually be designed as a “closed book” effort; however a specific question or questions may require (or allow) access to readily available literature that may be provided. Questions to be answered in an “open book” format will be explicitly identified as such. Each student’s advisory committee has the prerogative to administer additional tests or require further training to ensure that the student is fully qualified to pursue his/her dissertation research. If the advisory committee decides to require additional testing or training, the committee must inform the program director(s) of the requirements prior to or immediately after the written comprehensive exam. The written comprehensive exam will not be considered as passed until any such additional requirements are satisfied and this is communicated to the program director(s) by the advisory committee.

- Your committee will generally provide a number of questions, of which you are only required to answer a subset of your choosing. There are usually no length requirements; at this point in your education, you should have a good sense of what quantity of wordage constitutes a sufficient answer. Your committee may require you to be on campus for written comps, or may allow you
to take them off campus. Your committee members may choose to make themselves available via phone or email to answer questions or offer clarifications during your comps. These and other details of administration are determined by your committee, so check with them beforehand to know what will be expected.

- Studying techniques for written comps differ for each person, but most students begin earnest study 3-6 months beforehand. Regardless of your timeline and approach, it is essential that you talk with your committee members at least 2 months out to get an idea of what types of questions they will ask. Some will assign specific books and sets of papers for you, others will suggest topics to be particularly familiar with, and some will not offer any guidance (keep stalking them for info!). Many students find it helpful to practice their test strategy with questions from other students’ comps.

Administering the written exam. The written exam can be administered at any time during the appropriate academic year. Students failing two or more of the four sections of the written exam may be given a chance to retake the entire written examination again during the following year if the student’s advisory committee determines that a second opportunity is warranted. If one or two sections are failed, and the advisory committee believes that another chance is warranted, the advisory committee can suggest that the failed sections alone be retaken, or that the entire exam be retaken. The advisory committee must send a written request to the EECB director(s) to allow the student to retake all or portions of the exam.

Reference standard for all or portions of the written exam. Answers to exam questions will need to demonstrate a level of knowledge confirming that the student has acquired an understanding of the discipline, roughly equivalent to 600-level courses completed at a grade of B or better.

Written exam grading procedures. The entire advisory committee will review and approve the comprehensive examination before it is administered. Each answer will be read and graded by the faculty member that designed the question(s). Grading will be on a pass or not pass basis.

After all scores have been registered and reviewed by the committee, the committee will assess the performance of the student. The student (1) will be recommended to be passed, (2) will be recommended to retake all or portions of the exam, or (3) will be failed. When answers to particular questions are judged to be on the borderline between pass and fail, all member of the committee will be asked to read and evaluate the relevant answers written by the student. The committee as a whole will then decide on the appropriate grade. The major professor will communicate the results to the EECB director(s) prior to discussing the exams and grades with the student. When the committee determines that an overall exam was not passed, a memo should be sent to the EECB director(s) explaining the deficiencies and clearly describing why the committee felt the overall quality of the exam was below the criterion for pass.

Grading appeals. After review of the graded exams, students who have failed one or more sections of the exam and wish to appeal the results must do so in writing to the EECB director(s) within two weeks after notification of the results of the exam. Appeals were previously under the purview of the now-defunct examination and appeals committees, so changes to these policies are pending. If the student’s appeal is rejected, the student may then appeal the results to the Dean of the Graduate School.
Oral comprehensive examination. The oral comprehensive examination will be taken no later than six months after successful completion (passing) of the written exam and after submission of dissertation proposal to the advisory committee. It is then the responsibility of student to submit a request to his/her advisor to organize the oral examination, which will be conducted and evaluated by the student’s advisory committee. If more than one negative vote is cast by members of the advisory committee, the oral examination is failed. In case of failure, the examination may be retaken once, provided the advisory committee determines that additional study is justified and the student continues such studies for an additional period, not to exceed once year.

- Some students choose to organize a mock-orals for practice with a panel of peers who have already advanced to candidacy.

7. Thesis requirements
The dissertation requirements are negotiated between the student and advisory committee. According to the EECB Guidelines, at least one chapter must be submitted for publication.

Graduate School forms and resources related to thesis and dissertations:
- (Doctoral students only) Dissertation Title Form - http://www.unr.edu/grad/graduation-and-deadlines/dissertation-title-form

Once all requirements have been met, students need to submit a Final Review Approval and Notice of Completion form in order to graduate.

- Final Review Approval – Obtain sign-off from advisory committee chair
- Notice of completion – completed form should be submitted after all requirements have been met.

8. Graduate Assistantships
ASSISTANTSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

There are many resources available to you as an EECB graduate students that will help you succeed.

Teaching Assistantships
A “full” (1/2) time teaching assistantships is supposed to take up 20 hours a week. No more! In order to be eligible for a TA position you must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) graduate-level units. Meet with the professor for whom you will be teaching and make sure the expectations regarding your duties and responsibilities are explicit.

It is usually very difficult to acquire a TA position in a department other than your own, as each department must ensure all of its incoming students have positions before they can offer them to any outside students. The best way to attempt this is to stalk and sweet-talk the prof for which you are interested to TA, in the hope they will request you when positions are being assigned.

If you are teaching for the first time at UNR, you must enroll in the GRAD 701 workshop offered through the Graduate School each August. NO EXCEPTIONS, DO NOT MISS THIS.

**Research Assistantships**

RA positions are usually provided by PIs/advisors with money allotted in grants and side projects for student support. Rarely, they may be available through faculty other than your PI, particularly as part of a research rotation.

**Fellowships & Grants**

Fellowships generally cover some or all of your tuition and living expenses with less specific requirements such as teaching and research load. No intramural fellowships are available through EECB or the Graduate School, so they must be obtained extramurally if desired. Many small grants (usually up to $2,500) are available both intramurally and extramurally to cover research costs, and beginning students usually apply for as many of these as they have time for. Small grants help with research and—let’s face it—make your CV look pretty so that more people are inclined to give you money in the future. Larger grants such as big NSF programs are usually handled by your PI, so talk with them very early on as to whether you’ll work on one of these together.

**NOTE:** The following are some common fellowship and grant opportunities. This is not an exhaustive list, and it is the responsibility of each student to research funding resources and keep up with current submission deadlines.

**American Association of University Women**

The AAUW Educational Foundation, one of the largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women in the world, supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented. Eligibility criteria and applications for fellowships and grants may be downloaded from [http://www.aauw.org/3000/felgrawa.html](http://www.aauw.org/3000/felgrawa.html).
the website. The Foundation also makes several prestigious national awards to recognize excellence in achievement.

Student research grants range from $500 to $2,000 each, depending on category of the grant and evaluations. Applicants must be enrolled in graduate programs and must be active members of the Animal Behavior Society. Applicants apply via a single application process, usually at the end of the year.

Anza-Borrego Foundation  http://theabf.org/research/grants_scholarships

**Howie Wier Memorial Conservation grants** of up to $2,000 are awarded annually to assist graduate students conducting field studies in ecology, systematics, evolutionary biology, and conservation biology in the Colorado Desert and Peninsular Range region of southern California. Deadline December. Student Entomology grants are also available.

American Museum of Natural History  http://research.amnh.org/grants/
The American Museum of Natural History offers competitive grants and fellowships in areas broadly related to its scientific and educational objectives. These areas include the fields of vertebrate zoology, invertebrate zoology, paleozoology, anthropology, astrophysics and earth and planetary sciences. Frank M. Chapman Grants support and foster research in ornithology, both neontological and paleontological. Lerner-Gray Grants for Marine Research support marine zoology. Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grants support research on North American fauna in any phase of wildlife conservation or natural history.

American Ornithological Union  http://www.aou.org/awards/research/
AOU Research awards provide support for research in various areas of avian biology to **students and postdoctoral researchers** who are members of the American Ornithologists' Union or other members without access to funds from major granting agencies. **Awards are made annually in amounts up to a maximum of $2,500.** Deadline early February.

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists  http://www.asih.org/gaige2
Gaige awards are intended to provide support to young herpetologists for museum or laboratory study, travel, fieldwork, or any other activity that will effectively enhance their professional careers by contributing to the science of herpetology. Applicants must be members of ASIH and should be enrolled in an advanced degree program. Individual awards are typically in the range of $400-1,000, and will be awarded on the basis of both merit and need.

American Society of Mammalogists  http://www.mammalsociety.org/grants
Grants-in-Aid of Research Program offers awards up to $1,500 to graduate and upper-level undergraduate students who are members of the Society at the time of application. Awards primarily will be in support of field or laboratory work in mammalogy or for the purchase of supplies and small items of equipment related thereto. Applications due each spring.
American Society of Naturalists  
http://www.asnamnat.org/node/127

The American Society of Naturalists offers $2,000 Student Research Awards, which support research by student members that advances the goals of the society. Only Ph.D. candidates are eligible. Research must address a major conceptual issue in ecology, evolution or behavior, and projects on all types of research (i.e., laboratory, field, theory) are encouraged. Proposals will be judged on originality, strength and significance of the questions being addressed, prospects for significant results, and the match between the proposed research and the ASN mission. Deadline January.

Association of Field Ornithologists  
http://www.afonet.org/grants/Bergstrom/Bergstrom.html

The Bergstrom Award is designed to promote field studies of birds by helping to support research or analyses. Special consideration will be given to proposals dealing with avian life history, the use of data collected all or in part by amateurs, or that employ bird banding or other marking techniques. The applicant and/or their primary research supervisor must be a member of the Association of Field Ornithologists. Approximately five awards (maximum $1,000 each) are made to applicants working in the U.S. or Canada annually. Deadline January. The Skutch Award is also offered to support the study of life histories, especially social relations and reproduction, of little known birds of the Continental Neotropics including Trinidad and Tobago.

California Desert Research Legacy Fund  
http://www.asnamnat.org/node/127

The California Desert Research Fund supports graduate student research that contributes to the understanding and conservation of desert parks, wildernesses, and other ecologically significant open spaces in the California Desert in San Bernardino, Riverside, Inyo, and Imperial Counties. Grants ranging from $1,000-$4,000 and are available for scientific research conducted by graduate students in wildlands of the California Desert, especially within wilderness areas and wilderness study areas. Application deadlines March and October.

California Native Plant Society  
http://cnps.org/cnps/education/grants.php

The Educational Grants Committee administers the Educational Grants Program. Four types of grants are available including conservation, elimination of exotics, and evolutionary botany. All grant proposals must be postmarked by September 30th each year.

EECB Small Grants Program  
(contact EECB director or secretary)

EECB usually offers a small grant competition in January/February each year, intended as seed money for research needs and travel to scientific meetings. Several grants up to $1,000 are generally awarded. This program may not be offered depending on budgetary restrictions.

Entomological Society of America  
http://entsoc.org/awards/whats_available
Offers numerous fellowships and grants for various aspects of entomological research; see website for full list.

**EPA STAR Fellowship**  
[http://www.epa.gov/ncer/fellow/](http://www.epa.gov/ncer/fellow/)

EPA’s STAR graduate fellowship program supports masters and doctoral candidates in environmental studies. Students can pursue degrees in traditionally recognized environmental disciplines as well as other fields such as social anthropology, urban and regional planning, and decision sciences. The actual amount awarded per year will vary depending on the amount of tuition and fees and the number of months the stipend is needed. Benefits of an EPA STAR Fellowship include Up to $37,000 per year of support, including $12,000 per year for tuition and fees, $20,000 per year in a monthly stipend, and an annual expense allowance of $5,000. Masters level students can receive support for a maximum of two years. Doctoral students can be supported for a maximum of three years with funding available, under certain circumstances, over a period of four years.

**Explorer’s Club**  

The Explorers Club offers a number of Grant Programs as part of its Public Service commitment. Applications are judged on the scientific and practical merits of the proposal, the competency of the applicant and the appropriateness of the budget.

**Ford Foundation**  
[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm)

Through its Fellowship Programs, the Ford Foundation seeks to increase the diversity of the nation’s college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students. Pre-doctoral fellowships are available.

**Graduate Student Association**  
[http://www.unr.edu/gsa/gsa-programs-awards.html](http://www.unr.edu/gsa/gsa-programs-awards.html)

Each year in April, the GSA Awards Committee gives over $40,000 in the form of scholarships, grants, and prizes to graduate students. EECB students often enter into the research grant competition (up to $2,500) and poster, paper, and presentation competitions ($300 – $650).

**Mazamas**  
[http://www.mazamas.org/your/adventure/starts-here/research-grants](http://www.mazamas.org/your/adventure/starts-here/research-grants)

The Mazamas are dedicated to the exploration and preservation of mountain environments in the Pacific Northwest. Mazamas activities include gathering and disseminating scientific information concerning the natural features of mountains, forests, rivers, and lakes. Investigations of geologic features, biotic communities, and human endeavors pertaining to the enjoyment and safety of outdoor recreation are all relevant research topics. Most successful applicants are graduate students or experienced scientists performing field studies in the Pacific Northwest. Graduate students are encouraged to apply for the Graduate Student Grant which has a maximum award of $1,500.

**Nevada Native Plant Society**  
[http://heritage.nv.gov/nnpssnt.htm](http://heritage.nv.gov/nnpssnt.htm)
The Nevada Native Plant Society (NNPS) Margaret Williams research grants program will annually award up to two grants of not over $1,000 each. These grants are designed to facilitate basic botanical research and increase our understanding of Nevada's native and naturalized flora. The research should cover some aspect of our flora from single species to whole communities or ecosystems. Research can include, but is not limited to, disciplines such as conservation, landscape analysis, ecology, biogeography, or taxonomy. Successful applicants will be required to discuss their research results with NNPS. This can be through an article for our newsletter or by giving a presentation at an evening NNPS meeting. Deadline early February.

**NOAA NERRS Graduate Research Fellowship**  [http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/Fellowship.aspx](http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/Fellowship.aspx)

The NERRS Graduate Research Fellowship Program is one of the largest graduate programs supported by NOAA. Fellows conduct their research within a National Estuarine Research Reserve and gain hands-on experience by engaging with reserve staff and participating in their host reserve's research, education, stewardship and training programs. Fellows use reserves as living laboratories to address NERRS natural and social science priority issues based on the reserves' local coastal management needs. Fellows receive a stipend of $20,000 per year. Fellowships may be funded for up to three years. Deadline is November 1 each year.

**Northwest Scientific Association**  [http://www.northwestscience.org](http://www.northwestscience.org)

The Northwest Scientific Association awards grants of up to $1,500 to support student research in the pure and applied sciences. Undergraduate students are encouraged to apply – may be a good resource for you or a student you are mentoring. Applicants must be student members of NWSA. Grant monies may only be used to support research travel, materials, and supplies for student research. Funding will only be offered for projects conducted in the Pacific Northwest. Deadline each February.


The National Science Foundation awards Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in selected areas of the biological sciences. These grants provide partial support of doctoral dissertation research to improve the overall quality of research. Allowed are costs for doctoral candidates to participate in scientific meetings, to conduct research in specialized facilities or field settings, and to expand an existing body of dissertation research. Grants are typically awarded for periods up to 24 months and for amounts up to $15,000. You are qualified to apply for a DDIG once you have advanced to doctoral candidacy. Applications are due each November.


EAPSI provides U.S. graduate students in science and engineering: 1) first-hand research experiences in Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Singapore or Taiwan; 2) an introduction to the science, science policy, and scientific infrastructure of the respective location; and 3) an orientation to the society, culture and language. The primary goals of EAPSI are to introduce students to East Asia and
Pacific science and engineering in the context of a research setting, and to help students initiate scientific relationships that will better enable future collaboration with foreign counterparts. All institutes, except Japan, last approximately eight weeks from June to August. Japan lasts approximately ten weeks from June to August.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program  
http://www.nsfgrfp.org/

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based masters and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions. Fellows benefit from a three-year annual stipend of $30,000 along with a $10,500 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees, opportunities for international research and professional development, and the freedom to conduct their own research at any accredited U.S. institution of graduate education they choose. You are only eligible to apply for this before or during your first two (2) years of graduate school, with some exceptions. Applications are due early November.

NPS Robert Lee / Joshua Tree NP Grad Student Research Grant  
http://www.nps.gov/jotr/naturescience/grantprogram.htm

Joshua Tree National Park has instituted a program to encourage independent field research by graduate students enrolled in accredited institutions. The program benefits the student researcher by providing an opportunity to demonstrate how their research can apply to land management issues. Research proposals should focus on some aspect of the natural or cultural resources of Joshua Tree National Park. Appropriate fields of study include, but are not limited to: botany, wildlife, desert ecology, archaeology, ethnography, paleontology, geology, soil science, museum science, resource management, and conservation. In addition, it provides park staff with a better understanding of the resources at Joshua Tree National Park. Thanks to The Lee Family Foundation, grants of up to $4,000 are available to assist students with expenses. Deadline May.

Sigma Xi  

Grants range from a few hundred dollars to $1,000. Designated funds from the National Academy of Sciences allow for grants of up to $2,500 for astronomy or vision related research. Funds may be used to purchase non-standard laboratory equipment necessary to complete a research project or for travel expenses to a research site. Applications are due 15 March and 15 October, annually.

Smithsonian Institution  
http://www.si.edu/ofg/fell.htm

Fellowships at the Smithsonian Institution provide students and scholars with opportunities to pursue independent research projects in association with members of the Smithsonian professional research staff. **Graduate Student Fellowships** allow students to conduct research for ten-week periods in association with Smithsonian research staff members. **Predoctoral Fellowships** allow students to conduct research for periods of three to twelve months. The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) maintains research facilities for marine and
terrestrial research at various locations on the Isthmus of Panama. STRI short-term fellowships enable selected candidates to work in the tropics and explore research possibilities at STRI. The Ernst Mayr Fellowship is awarded 4 times yearly to outstanding short term fellowship candidates.

**Smithsonian Ornithological Council**  
http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/grants/

BIRDNET is an exhaustive list of grants, awards, and prizes curated by the Ornithological Council consisting of many professional ornithological organizations.

**Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology**  
http://www.sicb.org/grants/researchgrant.php3

The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) offers grants-in-aid of research to support graduate student research. Up to $1,000, applicants must be members of SICB. Deadline early November. Travel grants up to $2,000 for travel to distant labs, museums, or field sites are also available.

**Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology**  
http://www.thesnvb.org/scholarship.html

The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology (SNVB) provides one scholarship of up to $1000 annually to undergraduate or graduate students conducting vertebrate research within the geographic scope of the society: northwestern North America west of the Great Plains and north of the Mojave Desert. Scholarships are intended to support expenses associated with the proposed research project including but not limited to travel, equipment, and supplies.

**Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles**  
http://www.ssarherps.org/pages/GIH.php

Grants-in-aid of research up to $500 are intended to provide financial support for deserving individuals or organizations involved in herpetological research, education, or conservation. The Metter awards between $300-1,000 are to encourage students to pursue field research in herpetology and to facilitate field research in herpetology by providing funds for relevant expenses.

**Society of Systematic Biologists**  
http://systbio.org/?q=node/22

The Society of Systematic Biologists gives awards to assist students in the initiation (first two years) of systematics projects and in the collection of preliminary data to pursue additional sources of support (e.g., Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants from the National Science Foundation) or to enhance dissertation research (e.g., by visiting additional field collection sites or museums). Applicants must be members of SSB. Awards range between $1,200 – $2000 and approximately seven to nine awards are made. Deadline late spring.

**Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve Grant**  
http://vesr.ucnrs.org/pages/GrantAwards.html
Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve grants fund students planning to conduct research at the Reserve. Students apply for projects carried out at either the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory or at Valentine Camp. Deadline January.

**Welder Wildlife Fellowships**

http://www.welderwildlife.org/content/research/fellowships/

The Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation's graduate research fellowship program was initiated in 1956. The program is designed to promote the education of exceptionally qualified students and provide research information to manage wildlife populations. The scientific breadth of the program is suggested by the academic units of previous fellowship recipients, among them: animal behavior, biology, botany, conservation education, ecology, genetics, mammalogy, ornithology, parasitology, range science, veterinary pathology, and wildlife sciences.

**White Mountain Research Station**

http://www.wmrs.edu/student/default.htm

The White Mountain Research Station (WMRS) Graduate Student Mini-grant Program funds 10-20 thesis-related graduate student research projects each year, including both UC and non-UC students. Funds are typically granted to cover room, board and lab fees for staying at WMRS facilities, as well as local travel costs (air fare is not covered). This program is typically announced in December with an application deadline in early February. Limited funds will be made available to students or qualified investigators who wish to carry out baseline flora and fauna inventories or initiate long term studies along the White Mountain elevation gradient in conjunction with the GLORIA project.

**Whittel Forest and Wildlife Area / Little Valley Field Station**

sv@med.unr.edu

For more than 30 years, the University has owned and operated a large tract of land 20 mi SW of Reno in the Sierra Nevada, dedicated to the study of natural history. Summer Graduate Assistantships are available on a competitive basis for research conducted at Little Valley. For more information and applications, contact Dr. Steve Vander Wall.

All graduate students holding an assistantship (teaching GTA or GRA) are considered Nevada residents for tuition purposes. Non-resident tuition is only waived for the duration of the assistantship. To be eligible for an assistantship, students must be admitted to a degree-granting program and be in good academic standing. The student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.0 and must be continuously enrolled in at least 6 graduate level credits (600-700) throughout the duration of the assistantship.

State-funded assistantships (GTA/GRA) may be held for a maximum of: three (3) years for master’s degree students and five (5) years for doctoral degree students.

**Links to the most updated information on graduate assistantship in the graduate school website:**

General information: http://www.unr.edu/grad/funding/graduate-assistantships
9. **Health insurance**

All domestic degree seeking graduate students, who are enrolled in six or more credits (regardless of the course level) in a semester, will be automatically enrolled and billed for the University sponsored health insurance for each term they are eligible (fall & spring/summer). If a student has other comparable coverage and would like to waive out of the student health insurance, it is the student’s responsibility to complete the [University online waiver form](http://www.unr.edu/grad/health-insurance) prior to the deadline. If approved, a health insurance waiver is good for the current academic year only. A new waiver must be submitted each academic year. All international graduate students are required to carry student health insurance, and the cost will be automatically added to your student account. Any international graduate students with insurance questions must contact the [Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)](http://www.unr.edu/grad/health-insurance) directly.

10. **Leave of Absence**

**Continuous Enrollment:** To maintain “good standing” all graduate students are required to enroll in a minimum of three (3) graduate credits each fall and spring semester until they graduate. International students may be required to enroll in nine graduate credits each fall and spring semester depending on the requirements of their visa. All students holding assistantships (whether teaching or research assistantships) are required to enroll in a minimum of six (6) graduate credits each semester they hold the assistantship.

**Leave of Absence:** Students in good standing may request a leave of absence by completing a leave of absence form available on the Graduate School website ([http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/leaveofabsencer_9.23.pdf](http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/leaveofabsencer_9.23.pdf)) during which time they are not required to maintain continuous registration. Usually, a leave of absence is approved for one or two semesters. The leave of absence request may be extended by the student filing an additional leave of absence form. Students applying for a leave of absence should not have any “incomplete” grades which could be changed to “F” and have a detrimental impact on their cumulative GPA. Requests for leave of absences must be received by the Graduate School no later than the last day of enrollment for the semester the leave is to begin.

**Reinstatement:** When a student has been absent for one semester or more without an approved leave of absence, he or she may request reinstatement via the Reinstatement form (available on the Graduate School website [http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/noticereinstatementgraduatestanding_9.23.pdf](http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/noticereinstatementgraduatestanding_9.23.pdf)). This form allows the program the option to recommend the student be re-admitted to their graduate program based on their previous admission OR require the student to re-apply for admission which would require students to submit a new application for
admission and pay the application fee. The Notice of Reinstatement to Graduate Standing must be received by the Graduate School no later than the last day of enrollment for the semester the reinstatement is to begin.

11. Graduate Student Association
The Graduate Student Association (GSA) represents all graduate students and promotes the welfare and interests of the graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno. The GSA works closely with appropriate university administrative offices, including the Graduate School and Student Services and reports to the President of the University. The GSA government functions through the Council of Representatives, Executive Council and established committees. [http://www.unr.edu/gsa/](http://www.unr.edu/gsa/)

12. Graduate School Forms
Please refer to [www.unr.edu/grad/forms](http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms) for all forms available at The Graduate School.