

Interdisciplinary Ecology Online Master of Science Program

The School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) is scheduled to offer a 30-credit self-supporting Professional Master of Science (MS) Degree (thesis and non-thesis tracks) in Interdisciplinary Ecology (IEC-Online) for distance education. The IEC-Online MS degree will have the same requirements as the current on-campus MS degree program. This unique online MS degree program accepts applications for students starting in Fall 2025.

The SNRE offers integrative graduate coursework in five core categories to support the IEC-Online MS degree program. Ecology – principles and ecological concepts or to explore the ecology of organisms, populations, and communities more deeply, and/or ecosystems. Natural sciences – includes biophysical systems and processes, natural ecosystems, and intensively managed and built ecosystems dedicated to meeting human needs. Social sciences - focuses on issues of human thought, action, institutions, conflicts, and management of natural resources and the environment. Sustainability science - focuses on the integration of ecological, natural sciences, and social factors to sustain humans and ecological systems. Data science - focuses on analyzing and interpreting data and information using methods drawn from statistics, geospatial science, information science, and disciplinary knowledge.

The IEC-Online degree program builds on existing UF strengths by working with existing academic units to participate in the degree program by providing courses. The IEC-Online graduate program captures the interdisciplinary nature of the ecology graduate program by enriching opportunities for broad education to students engaged in core disciplines and professional degree programs; integrating discipline-centered graduate

education to offer both basic and applied science and policy analysis as related to ecosystems and associated environmental sciences. The program's competitive advantages include the use of an integrative approach with a focus on interdisciplinary ecology that is supported by the expertise of faculty across various units in agricultural and life sciences. There is a growing demand for this interdisciplinary knowledge by professionals in ecology and adjacent disciplines. Further, the new resources being invested in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and informatics, which can be applied in interdisciplinary ecology, will attract working ecological professionals interested in expanding their knowledge in these areas.

UF Academic Units

Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Agricultural Education and Communication; Agronomy; Entomology and Nematology; Environmental and Global Health; Environmental Horticulture; Family Youth and Community Sciences; Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences; Geography; Horticultural Sciences; Microbiology and Cell Sciences; Maple Center for Forensic Medicine; Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences; Urban and Regional Planning; and Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.

For details about the online Interdisciplinary Ecology program, contact Dr. K. R. Reddy, Director of the UF School of Natural Resources and Environment, at krr@ufl.edu.