

Graduate Programs Transition Task Force

Term of Task Force

The Task Force will serve until Spring term, 2009.

Task force Charge

Within the broad guidelines established by the College for the status of graduate programs during the transition to the new organizational structure (see attachments), the functions of this task force will be to:

- 1) work with the Reorganization Implementation Committee to identify changes in graduate program materials, including our web presence, and procedures that will facilitate graduate applications and admissions processes to existing College graduate programs through Fall 2009;
- 2) propose approaches for awarding graduate fellowships/scholarships across the new FES and FERM departments in cases where the original funding conditions would allow recipients in either department;
- 3) serve as a contact point and source of information for faculty with questions about the conduct of graduate programs under the reorganized structure;
- 4) identify emerging program (curricular) issues as the reorganization transition progresses;
- 5) propose guidelines for assigning graduate student desk space to be considered by the College Building Integration Committee and for access to graduate computing facilities to be considered by the Reorganization Implementation Committee.

Task force Membership

Wood Science and Engineering	Fred Kamke *
Forest Science	Lisa Ganio
Forest Engineering	Glen Murphy
Forest Resources-Social Science	Randy Rosenberger
Forest Resources—non-SS	David Hann
FERM Office Manager	Rayetta Beall
FES Office Manager	Misty Labahn
FERM graduate student	Chris Dunn, FERM
FES graduate student	Mike Messier, FES
WSE graduate student	Derek Thompson, WSE*

Leadership

The Task Force will identify its own chair

* service as appropriate

OUTLINE OF PLANS FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS DURING TRANSITION

i) The administrative home for FS grad programs will reside in FES, for the social science component of FR programs in FES, and the remaining FR programs and the FE program in FERM. These will be the repositories of applications, admission screening records, and student files for the respective graduate programs.

(ii) All graduate programs and requirements will remain unchanged for the near future (2 years).

(iii) The graduate programs will be governed by the Forest Science and Forest Resources graduate faculties in the respective components of (the current) FR and FS departments.

(iv) Fellowships and scholarships tied to specific existing departments will be reallocated across the new departments in an equitable fashion yet to be determined.

Students can continue to be admitted to existing FS and FR graduate programs for next Fall and Fall 2009 as well.

Once the new departments are operational, Cat II proposals could be entertained to modify these programs along the new departmental lines.

Extracted from:

http://www.cof.orst.edu/rac/documents/transition/Reorganization%20and%20Students%20_final%201-21-08_.pdf

Implications of College Reorganization for Students and Forestry Degree Programs

January 21, 2008

Undergraduate Degree Programs and Students

Reorganization will have little to no effect on students pursuing a major in the College of Forestry, including Natural Resources. The administrative home of some degree programs will change but there will be no direct impact on the curricula or any of the courses required for each major. Administrative homes for each of the undergraduate (BS) degree programs will be assigned to departments in the reorganized college as follows:

- a) **Department of Forest Ecosystem Science and Services** – Recreation Resources Management, Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Leadership.
- b) **Department of Forest Resources Operations and Management** – Forest Engineering, Dual Degree in Forest Engineering/Civil Engineering, Forest Management, Forest Operations Management.
- c) **Department of Wood Science & Engineering** – Wood Science and Technology.

Graduate Degree Programs and Students

Reorganization should have no negative effects on the ability of current graduate students to complete their degree programs in the normal timeframe. All graduate degree programs in the College [i.e., Forest Engineering, Forest Resources, Forest Science, Forest Products, Wood Science, Sustainable Natural Resources (Graduate Certificate)] and composition of their graduate faculties will remain unchanged for the immediate future. Degree requirements for current students will not change and students can anticipate receiving the degree they are seeking as long as they complete the requirements for the degree. New students who enroll in the future will fall under the degree programs and requirements in place at the time they are admitted. It is expected, however, that some change in graduate degree programs will occur in the future as a result of reorganization. In fact, new and creative thinking about graduate education in the College is a desired outcome of the reorganization process.

Reconfiguring of current graduate programs or development of new ones is the purview of the graduate faculty for each program. The graduate faculty for a program typically extends beyond departmental boundaries. Membership in the graduate faculty is controlled by the faculty themselves and the OSU Graduate School. Any changes in the current curricula or academic requirements of existing degree programs will be determined by the collective graduate faculty in those programs. Creation of new degree programs will be the responsibility of the graduate faculty making up the new programs.

For administrative purposes, current graduate degree programs will initially be allocated to the departments in the reorganized College as follows:

a) **Department of Forest Ecosystem Science and Services** - Forest Science, Sustainable Natural Resources (Graduate Certificate).

b) **Department of Forest Resources Operations and Management** - Forest Engineering, Forest Resources.*

c) **Department of Wood Science & Engineering** - Forest Products, Wood Science.

Administration in this context means providing administrative oversight for all areas of concentration of the degree programs assigned to the department, and administrative support for processing student applications, student record keeping, and managing daily operations of academic programs. *The only exception is that the day to day management of applicants and student records for two of the current Forest Resources graduate program concentrations (Forest Social Science and Natural Resource Education and Extension) will be provided by the Department of Forest Ecosystem Science and Services.

FAQs for graduate students:

In what department will I reside after the reorganization is in place?

Typically, you will be administratively assigned to the same department as your major professor (this will be your Resident Department). If you have a GRA through your major professor then your appointment, evaluation and payroll will be administered through that Department as well. Students with a major professor who has an adjunct or courtesy appointment will be housed, at least initially, in the department to which their degree program has been assigned. At this point we can't predict what changes will be made in the locations of student offices and laboratories, but there will be no immediate changes.

Where do I go to get answers about my degree program?

Note that in some cases your degree program will not be administered by your Resident Department. This is common across campus and in some programs in the College of Forestry—reorganization may increase the likelihood of this situation. For degree questions you should see your major professor and/or the graduate program advisor or the department head responsible for administering your degree program (Degree Department).

Who is responsible for approving my program of study (or changes) and signing my thesis?

Your major professor and graduate committee will still be responsible for this, but the Department Head of your Degree Department is the final approving authority in the College.

Who is responsible for administering my GRA or fellowship?

Your major professor will continue to be your principal supervisor unless the terms of your GRA dictate otherwise. In the vast majority of cases the staff of your Resident Department will be responsible for all employment-related paperwork.