

# *WELCOME*

*Forest and Natural Resource  
Sciences Graduate Program*

*21 August 2025*



# Goals this morning . . .

- **Information**
  - Who can help
  - Where to find info
    - Department Overview
    - Graduate Student Health Insurance
    - Department Outreach
    - FNR Graduate Student Association
    - Business Office Policies/Procedures
    - Computer Facilities & Resources
    - Laboratory Technician/Research Analyst Support
    - Graduate Degree Requirements
    - Assistantships
- **Your questions**



# Department Overview

- One of 14 departments in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
- 13 Faculty – Teaching, Research, Extension
- 22 Regular and Professional Staff
- Facilities
  - T.P. Cooper
  - Dimock Bldg.
  - **Robinson Forest** – 15,000 acres teaching, research, demonstration forest
  - **Wood Utilization Center**

# Department Mission

- Research, teaching, and extension programs of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources will effectively enhance sustainable **economic**, **ecological**, and **social** benefits of forests and related natural resources in Kentucky and beyond.



# Department Mission

Our programs will elevate the quality of life by:

- enhancing the integrity, stability, and health of forests and related biotic communities;
- increasing the long-term value added, sustainable income, and sustainable flow of services from forests and natural resources.

# Accomplished through Three Enterprises

- **Instruction** – B.S. Forestry, graduate degrees in Forest and Natural Resource Sciences, wildlife minor, associated certificates
- **Research** – state, federal and grant funded projects
- **Extension** – state and federal mandated continuing education system using science based information and solutions

# Cooperative Extension Service



- 120 county offices
- On campus faculty / staff providing information and solutions to issues
- In FNR Extension
  - 3 faculty (wildlife, forest health, silviculture)
  - 11 extension associates and other staff

# ***Robinson Forest and Wood Utilization Center***



# UK WOOD UTILIZATION CENTER



**Jackson, KY  
Breathitt County**

**UK's Robinson  
Center  
Established 1963**

**14,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility**



- **Teaching** – undergraduate Forestry Program at UK
- **Research** – studies on wood machining and properties, wood drying, and the use of low quality timber resources
- **Extension** –
  - industry trainings,
  - workshops for public,
  - entrepreneurship program,
  - product development and
  - youth programs





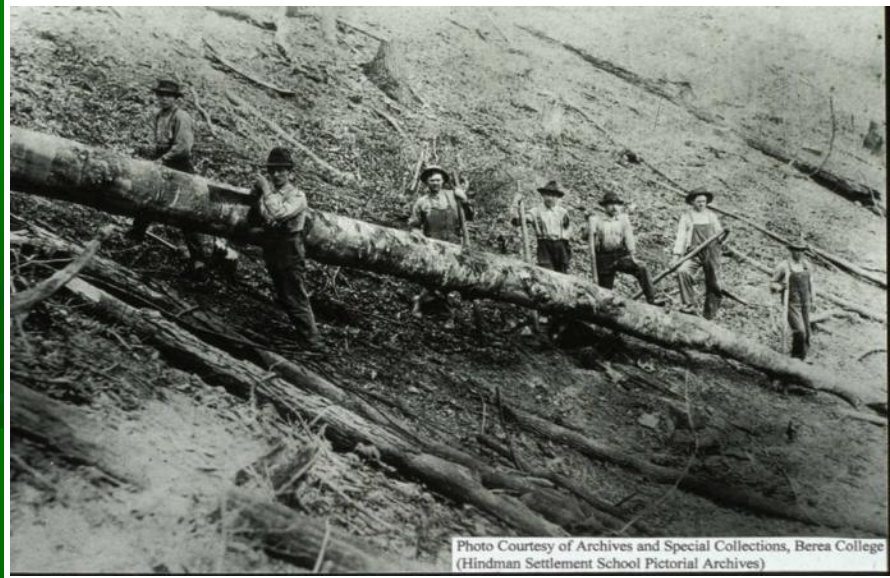
# ***Robinson Forest***

***Kentucky's Land Grant Forest Laboratory***





# ***Then***



# ***Now***





# ***Robinson Forest - Teaching***





# ***Robinson Forest – Continuing Education (Extension)***





# ***Robinson Forest – Research -Demonstration***



- Basic Upland and Headwater Hydrology
- Forest Ecology
- Aquatic Biology
- Wildlife Population, Habitat, Management
- Silviculture
- Archeology
- Invasive Species Management



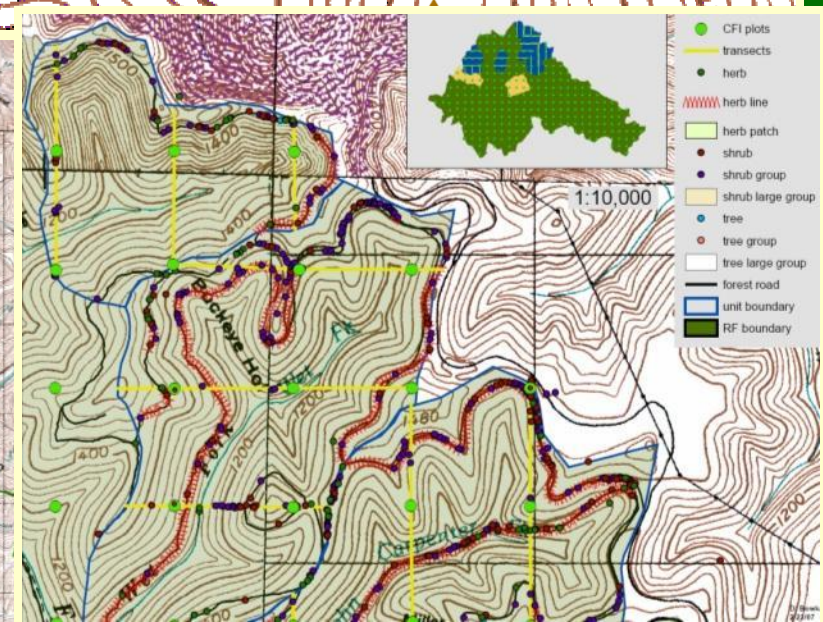
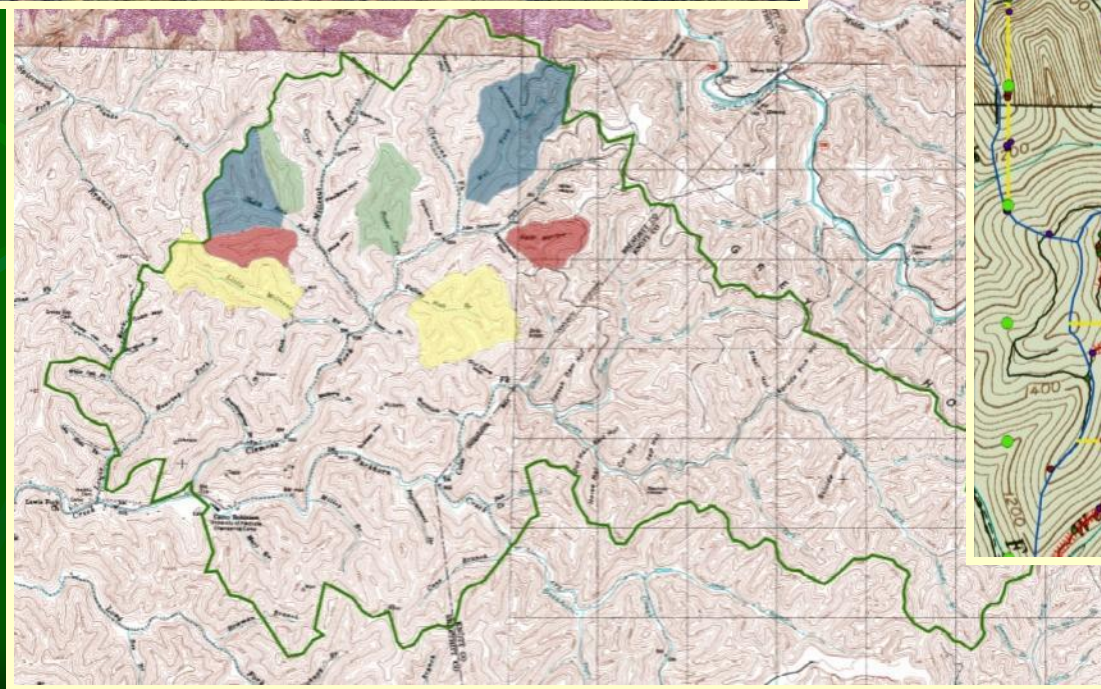


# ***Robinson Forest — Water Quality***





# Robinson Forest — SMZ Study





# ***Robinson Forest — Invasive Species Studies***





# ***Robinson Forest — Elk Research***





# ***Robinson Forest — Silviculture***







# Department of Forestry & Natural Resources

*Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment*



Q Search

Resources ≡

## Robinson Forest

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# Department of Forestry & Natural Resources

*Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment*



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## Robinson Forest

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Investigators wishing to conduct research at Robinson Forest should review the RF Use and Users Policy (below) then complete the project proposal and instruction form and remit to [Robinson.Forest@uky.edu](mailto:Robinson.Forest@uky.edu).

- [Robinson Forest Use and Users Policy](#)
- [UK Business Procedures Manual](#) (this will take you to UK Financial Services website)

***robinson.forest@uky.edu - goes to John  
Reinstette, forest manager***

# Department Overview

- B.S. in Forestry – Society of American Foresters professionally accredited degree – only one in KY
- Supporter of NRES inter-disciplinary program
- M.S. in Forest and Natural Resource Sciences
- Ph.D. Program in Forest and Natural Resource Sciences

# Department Overview

- Centers and Programs – housed in the dept.
  - Forest Health Research and Education Center
  - Center for Forest and Wood Certification
  - Kentucky Master Logger Program
  - Urban Forest Initiative
  - Green Forest Works
- ~70 undergraduate students
- 21 M.S. graduate students
- 7 Ph.D. students in the FNRS Program





# Student Health Plan for Graduate Students

Presented by Chavae Mock  
UK Student Health Plan Administrator





# Student Health Fee



- The health fee is a mandatory fee assessed to full-time students. It is not intended to replace health insurance.
- Gives you unlimited access to University Health Services (student clinic)
- \$131.35 will be charged to your tuition account
- Included in the health fee:
  - Unlimited office visits for:
    - Injury (hurt)
    - Illness (sick)
    - Well-patient physical exams
    - Women's services



# Services available at University Health Services (UHS)



- Primary care visits for injury or illness
- Women's health (gynecology)
- Behavioral health
- Health education
  - Nutrition counseling
  - Tobacco treatment counseling
  - Sexual health education sessions
- Well-patient, travel and employment physical exams
- Allergy injections
- Phone information nurse
- Observation room care
- On-call physician for after-hours advice
- Limited medications (four over-the-counter medications, six antibiotics)
- Some STI lab testing
- CLIA waived in-office tests including pregnancy tests, COVID test, etc. (except rapid flu)
- Telehealth appointments



# Services available at University Health Services (UHS)



## Where is UHS?

- 830 South Limestone; close to the Kentucky Clinic
- Clinic hours:
  - Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
  - During the summer and when school is not in session:
    - Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For appointments call 859-323-2778 or use your MyChart account





# Health fee – what does it not cover?



What is not included in the health fee:

- Diagnostic testing (x-rays, most lab tests)
- Hospitalization
- After hours care: urgent treatment, emergency room
- Surgical procedures
- Referrals to specialists
- Prescriptions
- Some vaccines

**This is why it is important for you to have health insurance**



# Student Health Plan (SHP)



- What is SHP?
  - SHP is the health insurance plan that the university offers to students. This plan helps to provide coverage for matters beyond the health fee, such as surgeries, emergency room visits, etc.
- Coverage is available/issued at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.
  - Semester coverage dates are as follows:
    - Fall: August 15 – December 31
    - Spring/Summer: January 1 – August 14



# How much does the plan cost?



- The cost for Fall 2025 is \$1,323.
- The cost for Spring 2026 is \$2,163.
- If you are a fully funded graduate student, the premium will be covered by the university.



# Adding dependents to the plan?



- You may add dependents (spouse and children only) to your plan.
- The cost, per dependent, for fall 2025 is \$1,323.
- The cost, per dependent, for spring 2026 will be \$2,163.
- You can add dependents at [uky.myahpcare.com/enrollment](https://uky.myahpcare.com/enrollment). The deadline for doing for fall is September 13th, 2025.
- Dependents must be readded each semester. Coverage does not automatically each semester.





# UK SHP Works In Tiers

University Health Services (UHS)	UK network providers	Anthem network providers	Out-of-network providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$0 copay</li> <li>• \$0 annual deductible</li> <li>• 0% coinsurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$25/\$45 copay for office visits</li> <li>• \$300 annual deductible</li> <li>• 25% coinsurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30/\$50 copay for office visits</li> <li>• \$500 annual deductible</li> <li>• 40% coinsurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,000 annual deductible</li> <li>• 55% coinsurance</li> </ul>
<p>*An exception to this can occur with blood drawn lab work.</p>			



# Emergency Room (ER)



- The emergency room is the most expensive place to get medical care. For this reason, it is important to seek care in the most appropriate location, and only visit the emergency room in case of a true emergency.
- Emergency room costs are calculated as follows:
  - Emergency room services are subject to a \$200 copay + \$300 deductible + 25% coinsurance
  - Using the example of an \$8,000 visit to the ER:
    - You would pay \$200 at the time of the visit.
    - You will then be responsible for the first \$300 of the \$8,000. This leaves a balance of \$7,700.
    - Next, you will be responsible for 25% of the \$7,700 (\$1,925).
    - This means that this one visit would cost you a total of \$2,425.
    - \$200 copay + \$300 deductible + \$1,925 coinsurance = \$2,425.



# Emergency Room (ER) cont.



- Going to the emergency room when it is not a true emergency could result in you being responsible for 100% of the costs as the insurance company can refuse to cover any of the costs.
- Consider using Urgent Treatment Centers if you have an issue that cannot wait until your doctor's office is open and it is not a true emergency.





# Delta Dental Insurance



- Basic dental insurance is now available for purchase.
- Cost for the 2025-26 coverage year is \$276.48.
- **Who is eligible?** Any undergraduate student enrolled in at least six credit hours and any graduate student enrolled in at least two credit hours is eligible to purchase dental insurance for themselves and their dependents.
- **How do I purchase it?** You can purchase online at [uky.myahpcare.com](https://uky.myahpcare.com). Open enrollment is Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **When can I purchase it?** Anytime during the fall open enrollment period.
- **What dental services are included in this service?** Available services include dental exams, dental cleanings, select x-rays; and select simple restorative services.
- **Is it free to use the dental insurance?** Some services, such as cleanings, are covered 100% by the insurance. However, other services require you to pay a portion. It is important to discuss cost with your dental provider, prior to receiving services, if you are concerned about your out-of-pocket costs.



# For help, please contact us



- SHP Office
  - [studenthealthplan@uky.edu](mailto:studenthealthplan@uky.edu)
  - 859-218-0461
  - Your day-to-day SHP contact for questions
- University Health Services (UHS)
  - 859-323-2778
  - Call to make an appointment or to get assistance with medical questions
- Academic HealthPlans (AHP)
  - 855-856-2385
  - [help.ahpcare.com](http://help.ahpcare.com)
  - Questions about enrollment, adding dependents
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
  - Contact information TBA
  - 844-412-0752
  - Questions about coverage or getting your insurance card
- Know Your RX Coalition
  - 855-218-5979
  - For questions about prescriptions/medicines
- Delta Dental
  - [CustomerService@deltadentalky.com](mailto:CustomerService@deltadentalky.com)
  - 800-955-2030
  - Questions about dental insurance





# Any questions?





# Department Outreach

- Department newsletter, website, social media, digital signage
  - Research updates, award news, GSA activities, etc.
- Job board - <https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/forestry-jobs>
- Student services
- Alumni relations

Laura Robinson: 859-257-8718; [L.Robinson@uky.edu](mailto:L.Robinson@uky.edu); Room 108

# Department Outreach

- Let us know about your work, posters, presentations, etc.
  - Digital signage in TP Cooper
  - Facebook and Instagram
  - E-News
  - Newsletter

Laura Robinson: 859-257-8718; [L.Robinson@uky.edu](mailto:L.Robinson@uky.edu); Room 108

# EVENTS

## Fall Alumni-Student Picnic

Friday, Sept. 12 on front lawn of TP Cooper.  
Starts at 4:30 pm with dinner at 5:30 pm.

RSVP by Sept. 3 [using this link](#)

**Kentucky Wood Expo 2025** - Student Volunteers needed!

**RSVP by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>**



Scan QR code to  
RSVP by online form



# Forestry & Natural Resources Graduate Student Association 2025-2026





# Meet Your 2025-2026 Officers!

President: Nicole Notarianni

- MS student in Dr. DJ McNeil's Lab
- Office in basement Grad Office, TPC

\*I'm away this week but looking forward to meeting all the new graduate students at the start of this semester!\*





## Meet Your 2025-2026 Officers!

Vice President: Eleanor Lane

- PhD student in Dr. Steven Price's Lab
- Office in Price's 1<sup>st</sup> floor herp lab, TPC



## Meet Your 2025-2026 Officers!

Secretary: Simon Aaronson

- MS student in Dr. Ellen Crocker's Lab
- Office in 2<sup>nd</sup> floor grad student office, TPC





# Meet Your 2025-2026 Officers!

Graduate Student Council  
Representative, Fall 2025: Claire  
Muia

- MS student in Dr. Matthew Springer's Lab
- Office in 2<sup>nd</sup> floor grad student office, TPC



## Meet Your 2025-2026 Officers!

Graduate Student Council Representative,  
Spring 2025: Benard Oriama

- MS student in Dr. Thomas Ochuodho's Lab
- Office in basement grad student office, TPC



# Why Join FNR-GSA?



- Provides networking opportunities with fellow graduate students
- Offers volunteer & service opportunities, both on and off campus
- Presents a forum to share ideas & contribute to the department
- Why not? It's free and we'd love to have you! 😊

\*Specific details will be shared via the listserv as they become available\*

Include your contact information on the sign-up sheet to stay informed about upcoming meetings, events, & funding opportunities!

	
<p>Forestry &amp; Natural Resources Graduate Student Association (2025-26) Sign-up</p>	
<p><u>Please include your full name &amp; your University of Kentucky email address to be added to our organization's roster for this year!</u></p>	
<b>Full Name</b>	<b>UK email address</b>



# **Budget & Other Policies/Procedures**



# ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Leslie Queary
  - Administrative Coordinator
  - Room 105, 257-7596, [leslie.queary@uky.edu](mailto:leslie.queary@uky.edu)
- Debbie Gutierrez
  - Fiscal Officer
  - Room 107, 257-2516, [debbie.gutierrez@uky.edu](mailto:debbie.gutierrez@uky.edu)





# Travel



- Before trip
  - Work with supervisor and/or Leslie (Room 105) to book various travel needs (vehicle, lodging, etc.)
- Enjoy your trip!
- After trip
  - Complete online CONCUR document through myUK portal (Leslie can provide one-on-one assistance)
  - Attach original receipts to CONCUR document in pdf format
  - Reimbursement through direct deposit
- Need help? . . . Ask us!



[http://sevendcolors.org/images/photo/original/globe\\_west.jpg](http://sevendcolors.org/images/photo/original/globe_west.jpg)





# Budgets

- Please direct all questions about your accounts and budgets to Debbie.



# HR and Payroll



- Please direct all questions about any human resources aspects and payroll to Leslie Queary in Room 105.
- To make any changes to payroll - address change, account number change, *etc.* please see Leslie.



# Worker's Comp

- If you are injured in the field or on the job, please call UK's Worker's Comp office at 800-440-6285 to file the report. (please carry this number in your wallet)
- [http://www.uky.edu/HR/benefits/disability\\_worker.html](http://www.uky.edu/HR/benefits/disability_worker.html)
- Please see Leslie if you have questions.





# Mailings

## FedEx and UPS

- Next day and 2<sup>nd</sup> day shipments
- Package item yourself
- FedEx boxes in supply closet (Rm 116)
- FedEx and UPS envelopes and labels in Rm 105
- Please bring package, completed labels, and acct # to Leslie
- International shipments also available through FedEx



# Mailings cont'd

## USPS

- Package item
- Attach the domestic meter card (manila)
- For international shipments, attach pink meter card
- Leave in mail room (Room 209) for pick up



# **Mailings cont'd**

## **Campus Mail**

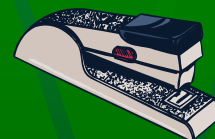
- Campus mail envelopes are in mail room
- Place in envelope and leave in metal basket labeled 'campus mail' in mail room
- Mail is picked up daily between 8:00 and 9:00 AM







# Supply Purchases



- Office Supplies

- First check supply closet, Room 116
- If item not available, please have an account number and see Leslie in Room 105

- Lab Chemicals/Supplies

- Please have an account number
- You may use:

VWR, new vendor for ALL chemical/lab supplies:

Phone: 855-834-9035, Email: [UK\\_Support@vwr.com](mailto:UK_Support@vwr.com)

Tammy Curtis, Central Kentucky Sales Representative, dedicated representative for the University account.

- If all else fails, see Millie for assistance in room 221



# Pro Card (credit card)

- When you make a purchase with a UK Pro-card, please:
  - fill out the form
  - attach original receipts
  - turn in to Debbie, Room 107



# Reimbursements

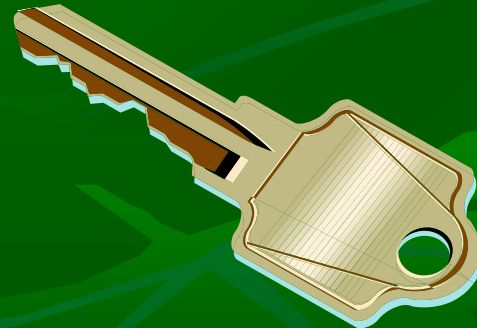
- Reimbursements may be given when:
  - a purchase was not for:
    - travel
    - food
    - postage
  - the amount is more than \$25.00 (if not, save receipts until total is more than \$25.00)
- Please have:
  - Original receipt
  - Account number, then
  - See Leslie (105) or Debbie (107).





# Key Shop

- If you need office keys, please see Leslie in Room 105.
- Due to recent building security updates, please make sure you have your UK Student ID for building access during non-working hours.





# Car Reservations

- Cars or trucks may be reserved through CONCUR with various rental car agencies.
- Please see your major professor or Leslie to reserve a car.
- You will need:
  - departure and return day and time
  - phone & email
  - type of vehicle needed (truck, car, van, *etc.*)
  - who is traveling



# Vans

If you will be driving an 11-passenger van:

- You will need to be certified first
- See Leslie Queary for help





# Chemicals

If you will be using chemicals

- You will need to complete a chemical hygiene test first
- Ask Millie Hamilton for details (TPC Room 221)



# **You need to know Darryl!**

Darryl Cremeans, Ph.D.  
Data Systems Manager



# Darryl wears many hats

- Many of which can help facilitate your success here



- Office: TPC 121A





# Space Committee Chairman

- Desk assignments
- Keys – Leslie or Darryl
- Office allocation
- Lab space needs
- Storage
- Renovation projects
- *etc.*



The committee has ratified a protocol for making these decisions



# Departmental Safety Contact

- Oversee lab inspections
- Remedy any safety issues identified by the Fire Marshall
- *etc.*



If you encounter anything you feel puts you at risk –  
**<https://ohs.uky.edu/reporting-your-incident>**  
You can file a report and tell your major professor.  
There will be no bad repercussions for you.



# Inventory Control Officer

- Capital equipment (Oct-Dec)
- Minor equipment inventory (off campus equipment forms)
- Federal Surplus inventory
- Space inventory
- Vehicle inventory





# Data Systems Manager

- Tech support
  - [dcremean@uky.edu](mailto:dcremean@uky.edu)
  - Office 257-1396
  - Ag Helpdesk – 257-3335
  - UK Helpdesk – 218-HELP
- Network Administrator
- Computer Lab
- Security administrator
- *etc.*
- *etc.*



# Your Computer

- The department endeavors to provide each graduate student with a pc (desktop or notebook) and printing access
- Network printers in TPC 1, 114 and 218
  - Please do not print frivolous documents.



# Safe Computing

- If you just perform *work related* tasks on your pc, you should be able to avoid problems
- Avoid Phishing links
- Install Dell and Microsoft security patches monthly
  - Notifications in lower right corner





# Computer Resources

- TPC 121
  - Poster printing
    - You can email me your poster and I will print it
- TPC 220
  - **Instruction**
  - General use otherwise – schedule posted on door



# Network Resources

- File servers
  - Allocated as needed
  - Will map virtual drive(s) to your computer
- Printers
- Software - [download.uky.edu](http://download.uky.edu)
  - Login with UKID



# Departmental Listservs

- [Forestry-all@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:Forestry-all@lsv.uky.edu) – every full time employee
- [Forestry-ext@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:Forestry-ext@lsv.uky.edu) – all extension people
- [Forestry-fac@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:Forestry-fac@lsv.uky.edu) – all faculty
- [Forestry-grads@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:Forestry-grads@lsv.uky.edu) – all graduate students (even if not hosted by Forestry) - **best way to insure you are on the list is to email me at [dcremean@uky.edu](mailto:dcremean@uky.edu)**
- [Forestry-ps@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:Forestry-ps@lsv.uky.edu) – professional staff
- [Forestry-res@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:Forestry-res@lsv.uky.edu) – research folks
- [Forestry-teach@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:Forestry-teach@lsv.uky.edu) – forestry instructors
- [All-students-fore@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:All-students-fore@lsv.uky.edu) – all forestry students (both undergrad and graduate)





# Forestry Department Web Site

<http://forestry.ca.uky.edu>

If you want your own web page visit with  
Laura Robinson (TPC 108) and provide  
the information to her.

## Departmental Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/UKYFNR/>



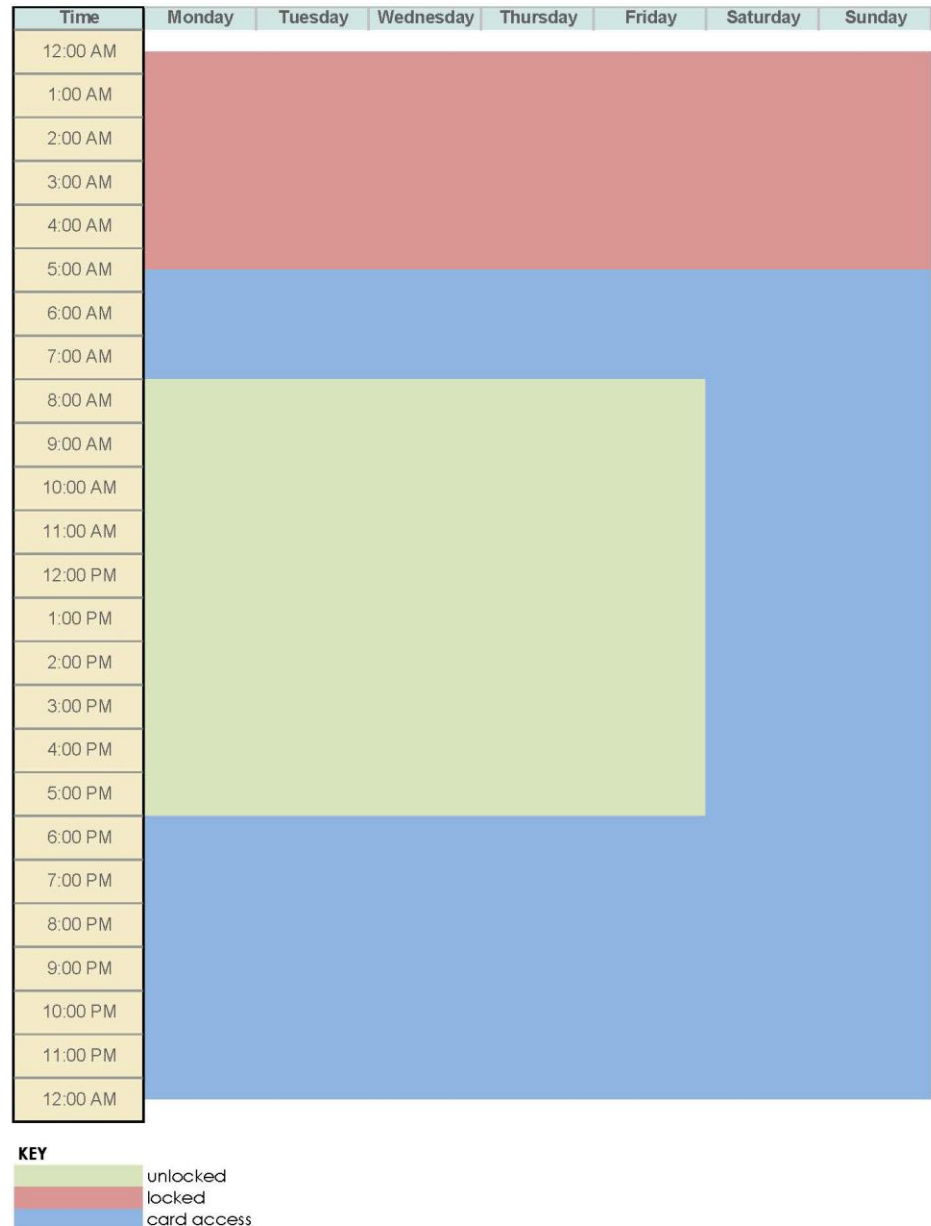
# Parking at the Cooper Building

- 8 spaces used for departmental discretion (visitors mostly)
- 2 loading zone spaces (black/yellow curb, 15 minutes maximum)
- 3 service spaces (white/yellow curb), no parking
- Sign in on white board, don't abuse the parking (~under an hour)
- Don't make me have you towed.



# Security System

- Front door -Access card not needed during business hours
- Blue: access card needed to enter (see me to add your card)
- Red: no entry although you can always exit (I can give exceptions if needed)





# Laboratory Technician Research Analyst Support

- Laboratory Technician

- David Collett, [dcollett@uky.edu](mailto:dcollett@uky.edu)
- Louise Hosburgh, [louise.hosburgh@uky.edu](mailto:louise.hosburgh@uky.edu)

- Research Analyst

- Zach Hackworth, [zachary.hackworth@uky.edu](mailto:zachary.hackworth@uky.edu)
- Milinda Hamilton, [millie.hamilton@uky.edu](mailto:millie.hamilton@uky.edu)



# Forest and Natural Resource Sciences Graduate Program

- Graduate Program Committee
- Resources
- How do I earn my degree?
- TA/RA benefits and responsibilities



# Forest and Natural Resource Sciences Graduate Program Committee

## ■ Faculty Members

Sybil Gotsch  
Darin McNeil  
Matthew Springer  
Jian Yang

## ■ Ad-hoc Student Member

Eleanor Lane





# Resources: Grad School Web Pages: Provide Links to Most UK Info

- Home page: <http://gradschool.uky.edu/>
- Click on “Current Students”
  - Bulletin
  - Key Dates
  - Degree Forms
  - Health Plan
  - Thesis and Dissertation Prep
  - *Etc.*



# Key Dates for Graduation

## Fall 2025 Semester

September 19, 2025	<p><b>Doctoral Candidate Notification of Intent Deadline</b></p> <p>Last day doctoral candidates for a December 2025 degree can submit a <a href="#">Notification of Intent</a> to schedule a final examination in the Graduate School.</p>
November 1, 2025	<p><b>Degree Application Deadline</b></p> <p>Last day to apply for a December 2025 graduate degree via myUK.</p>
November 20, 2025	<p><b>Graduate Degree Candidate Final Examination Scheduling Deadline</b></p> <p>Last day candidates for a December 2025 graduate degree can sit for a final examination. All scheduling requests must be submitted <b>at least two weeks prior</b> to the proposed examination date.</p>
December 4, 2025	<p><b>Graduate Degree Candidate Final Examination Deadline</b></p> <p>Last day candidates for a December 2025 graduate degree can sit for a final examination.</p>
December 12, 2025	<p><b>Dissertation/Thesis Format Review Deadline</b></p> <p>Last day candidates for a December 2025 degree can submit their <a href="#">thesis/dissertation (ETD)</a> for format review to the Graduate School via UKnowledge.</p>
December 19, 2025	<p><b>Final Dissertation/Thesis Deadline</b></p> <p>Last day for December 2025 degree candidates to submit final revised <a href="#">thesis/dissertation (ETD)</a> to the Graduate School.</p>
December 19, 2025	<p>Commencement for December 2025 graduates.</p>

# Key Dates for Graduation

## Spring 2026 Semester

February 19, 2026	<b>Doctoral Candidate Notification of Intent Deadline</b> Last day doctoral candidates for a Spring 2026 degree can submit a <a href="#">Notification of Intent</a> to schedule a final examination in the Graduate School.
April 1, 2026	<b>Degree Application Deadline</b> Last day to apply for a May or August 2026 graduate degree via myUK.
April 9, 2026	<b>Graduate Degree Candidate Final Examination Scheduling Deadline</b> All scheduling requests must be submitted <b>at least two weeks prior</b> to the proposed examination date.
April 23, 2026	<b>Graduate Degree Candidate Final Examination Deadline</b> Last day candidates for a May 2026 graduate degree can sit for a final examination.
May 1, 2026	<b>Dissertation/Thesis Format Review Deadline</b> Last day candidates for a May 2026 degree can submit their <a href="#">thesis/dissertation (ETD)</a> for format review to the Graduate School via UKnowledge.
May 8, 2026	<b>Final Dissertation/Thesis Deadline</b> Last day for May 2026 degree candidates to submit final revised <a href="#">thesis/dissertation (ETD)</a> to the Graduate School.
May 8-9, 2026	Commencement for May 2026 graduates.

# M.S. (Forest and Natural Resource Sciences) Degree Requirements

- Total graduate (5xx, 6xx, 7xx) credits:
  - Plan A: **30** (plus thesis)
  - Plan B: **30** (plus project)
  - FOR 4xxG credits do not count
  - 4xxG credits do count if the prefix is not FOR
  - All students can take 6 FOR 768 (Residence for MS degree) credits
  - FOR 748 (Master's thesis research) do not count
- Plus additional requirements of
  - Forestry Graduate Program
  - Graduate School
  - Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)





# M.S. (Forest and Natural Resource Sciences) Degree Requirements (Plan A and Plan B)

- Specific Courses
  - FOR 601 (3 credits; take this your 1<sup>st</sup> Fall Semester)
  - FOR 602 (3 credits; taught odd-year Fall Semesters) **or** FOR 603 (3 credits; taught even-year Fall Semesters)
  - FOR 770 (take 3 times; taught every Fall & Spring)
- Instructional experience in undergraduate course
- Department Seminar (usually semester after FOR 601)
- Exit seminar
- Oral final exam



# Degree Requirements (Plan A)

## Graduate School & CPE Course Requirements:

- **16 graduate credits in “regular” courses**
  - FOR 599, 748, 768, 781, 791 do not count as “regular” courses except:  
FOR 599 does count if it has a subtitle and regular weekly classroom meeting pattern.
- **12 graduate credits in 600- or 700-level courses**
  - → 12 credits for Plan A
  - FOR 748 , 768 do not count.
  - FOR 781, 791 do count.
- **All students can take up to 6 FOR 768 credits**

FOR 599	Independent work in Forestry
FOR 748	Master's Thesis Research
FOR 768	Residence Credit for Master's Degree
FOR 781	Special Problems in Forestry
FOR 791	Research in Forestry



# Degree Requirements (Plan A)

## Graduate School & CPE Course Requirements *(continued)*:

- 12 graduate credits in courses with *FOR* prefix
  - FOR 748, 768 do not count.
  - FOR 599, 781, 791 do count.
- 9 graduate credits in *FOR* courses at 600- or 700-level
  - FOR 748, 768 do not count.
  - FOR 781, 791 do count.



# Degree Requirements (Plan A – Thesis)

Here's the bottom line meaning of the Graduate School & CPE course requirements of preceding two slides (for most Plan A students):

- At least 16 graduate credits in “regular” courses
- Other coursework can be fulfilled by one, 3-credit, 600- or 700-level, FOR course (taken in addition to FOR 601, FOR 602 **or** FOR 603 & FOR 770 x 3). (But FOR 748, 768, do not count. FOR 781, 791 do count.)
- All students can take FOR 768 (for 6 credits)
- Best way to search for classes, use MyUK (Student Services; Plan and register for courses)





# Ph.D. Degree Requirements

- 36 credits (18 can be transferred from MS degree)
- Specific Courses
  - FOR 601 (3 credits; take this your 1<sup>st</sup> Fall Semester)
  - FOR 602 (3 credits; taught odd-year Fall Semesters)
  - FOR 603 (3 credits; taught even-year Fall Semesters)
  - FOR 770 (take 3 times; taught every Fall & Spring)
- Instructional experience in undergraduate course
- Department Seminar (usually semester after FOR 601)
- Qualifying exam (proposal, oral presentation, and oral exam)
- Final exam (dissertation, oral presentation, oral exam)

# FOR 770

## Fall 2025

- University Teaching (Price)
- Discussion on Department Seminar Topics (Springer)
- Scientific Presentation (Muller)

## Spring 2026

- University Teaching (Price)
- Forest Health (Crocker)
- Spatial Analysis with R (Yang)
- Analysis of Ecological Data in R (Vickers & McNeil)



# Course Plan

- Meet with major professor(s) to develop tentative course plan (semester-by-semester) before registration
- Submit plan to DGS for audit
- Meet with advisory committee to review / modify / approve tentative course plan (before end of first semester)
- Submit to DGS:
  1. Completed committee meeting report form (<https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/files/forest-and-natural-resource-sciences-advisory-committee-meeting-report-Nov2018.pdf>)
  2. List of courses required by your committee



# Tips for Smooth Progress

## 1. Your advisory/examination committee

- Establish during your 1<sup>st</sup> semester for review of course plan (consult major professor)
- Rules for composition of the committee
  - At least 3 faculty members
  - At least 2 FNRS graduate faculty members (including committee chair or co-chair)
  - At least 1 “full” member of the graduate faculty
  - PhD students require 4 faculty members (2 FNRS, 1 outside; 3 full members of graduate faculty)
  - Majority must belong to FNR faculty

Graduate faculty status, including who are “associate” members and who are “full” members, is at:

<https://gradschool.uky.edu/graduate-faculty>





# Tips for Smooth Progress (*continued*)

2. Plan all coursework at the outset
3. Consult major professor and committee frequently
4. Plan thesis research (or part of dissertation) project (Plan A) by end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester



# Tips for Smooth Progress (*continued*)

## 5. Stay on top of deadlines

<http://gradschool.uky.edu/calendar>

- “Application for Degree” (due near beginning of final semester; file online using “myUK”)
- “Request for Final Examination” (at least 2 weeks before exam)
- Final Examination: Each semester, there is a “latest possible date”
- Thesis final copy (due within 60 days of successful final examination)
- DON'T assume your PI is aware of these deadlines

(“Graduate School Forms” link on Graduate School home page)

<http://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>



# Electronic Thesis

- Hard copy thesis no longer accepted
- Rapid worldwide access *via* UKnowledge
- Format instructions at:  
<http://gradschool.uky.edu/electronic-thesis-preparation>



# Full-Time (20 hours per week) RAships & TAships: Benefits

- Stipend
- Fall and spring (but not summer or winter) tuition paid on your behalf (for graduate-level courses, . . . but see next slide . . .)
- “Funded Graduate Student” health insurance premium paid on your behalf (complements “University Health Service” but it’s not the same)
- RAAs & TAs do pay some fees





# Full-Time TAs & RAs: Tuition for Undergraduate Courses

- Undergraduate course tuition is paid on behalf of TAs & RAs IF:
  - TA or RA also registers for  $\geq 9$  graduate credits during fall or spring semester when undergrad course is taken  
OR
  - Undergrad course is required by committee for degree AND is taken for letter grade (*i.e.* not Pass/Fail)
- Otherwise, graduate student TAs and RAs are generally responsible to pay their own tuition for undergraduate courses



# Full-time Student Definition



## Full-time Graduate Student:

Enrolled in at least 9 graduate credits in fall / spring semesters

PhD candidates (post qualifying exams(QE)) require FOR 767 (2 credits) to maintain full time status; FOR 767 can be taken during the semester of QE



# Health Insurance Coverage for Funded Graduate Students

## “Funded Graduate Student” health insurance

- A complement to “University Health Service”
- TAs & RAs may enroll dependents (but student pays extra insurance premium)
- For more information . . .
  - <https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/university-health-service/student-health>
  - Chavae Mock—Student Health Plan Administrator, 115 Scovell Hall
  - Email: [chavae.mock@uky.edu](mailto:chavae.mock@uky.edu)



# Recreation and Student Health Fees

- Mandatory for students enrolled in  $\geq 9$  credit hours
  - Recreation fee
  - University Health Service fee
- For students enrolled in  $\geq 1$  and  $< 9$  credit hours:
  - Recreation fee is mandatory (prorated for credit hours)
  - University Health Service is optional and must be specifically requested if you want it
- If you are enrolled only in FOR 748 (0 credit hours):
  - Recreation fee is optional
  - University Health Service is optional





# Recreation and Student Health Fees

- For more information . . .
  - Student Account Services: 257-3406
  - Recreation (Johnson Center): 257-3928
  - University Health Service
    - <http://www.ukhealthcare.uky.edu/uhs/>
    - 323-5823
- Remember . . . “University Health Service” is different from the “injury / illness” insurance provided to funded graduate students

# Assistantships: Responsibilities



- Commitment and satisfactory progress toward degree
- Satisfactory research and/or teaching performance
- Responsible to major professor and/or teaching supervisor



# Questions? Comments?

