

RANGE SCIENCE - MASTER OF SCIENCE

A GPA of 3.0 or higher is required for admission. GRE exam is not required. Prerequisite for admission as a regular graduate student in the department is the completion of a curriculum substantially equivalent to that required of undergraduate students. Therefore, deficiency courses may be required after admission to the program, as determined by the admissions committee and the student's graduate committee and advisor.

Graduate Program with the Thesis (Research) Option

- Coursework
 - A minimum of 30 credits of graduate work is required to graduate.
 - At least 15 credits must be in courses numbered 500 or above.
 - At least 15 credits must be from the Range Science program.
 - Not more than 6 nor fewer than 4 thesis credits (RGSC 599 Master's Thesis) may be counted toward the requirements for a master's degree.
 - Two semesters of RGSC 515 Graduate Seminar (Seminar) are required. One may be taken from another department with the permission of the student's graduate committee.
 - At least one advanced statistics course or equivalent is required, as determined by the student's graduate committee.
- Thesis
 - The thesis research project must be approved by the student's graduate committee.
 - Every effort should be made to publish the thesis as a scientific journal article or Experiment Station publication.

Prefix	Title	Credits
Two Semesters of Seminar		2
RGSC 515	Graduate Seminar	
Choose from the following		28
RGSC 452	Vegetation Measurements for Rangeland Assessment	
RGSC 460	Rangeland and Natural Resource Planning and Management	
RGSC 509	Approaches to Rangeland Research	
RGSC 516	Arid Land Management	
RGSC 518	Watershed Methods and Management	
RGSC 520	Arid Land Plant Herbivore Interactions	
RGSC 525	Advanced Rangeland Restoration Ecology	
RGSC 550	Special Topics	
RGSC 551	Earth Data Retrieval	
RGSC 557	Advanced Grass Taxonomy and Identification	
RGSC 575	Climate Studies, Water and Society	
RGSC 585	Land Cover Analysis for Natural Resources	
RGSC 589	Landscape Hydrology Modeling	
RGSC 599	Master's Thesis	
Two Credits of Research (non-thesis Option)		0-2
RGSC 598	Special Research Program	
Total Credits		30-32

Graduate Program with the Non-Thesis Option

- Coursework
 - A minimum of 32 credits of graduate work is required to graduate.
 - At least 15 credits must be in courses numbered 500 or above.
 - At least 15 credits must be from the Range Science program.
 - RGSC 599 Master's Thesis (Thesis) may not be taken.
 - Two credits of RGSC 598 Special Research Program (subtitled Non-Thesis Report) are required for the written report.
 - Two semesters of RGSC 515 Graduate Seminar (Seminar) are required. One may be taken from another department with the permission of the student's graduate committee.
- Written Report
 - The report will be on a topic approved by the student's graduate committee.
 - Research for the report may involve field work and data gathering but should also be strongly library- and literature-based.
 - The report should be of graduate quality and content and should follow graduate school thesis format or the format of an acceptable scholarly journal. Final approval and acceptance of the report will be provided by the student's graduate committee.
 - Every effort should be made to publish the report in an appropriate outlet (journal article, Experiment Station bulletin or report, Extension bulletin, etc.)
 - Copies of the report will be bound and placed in the university and departmental libraries.

First Year

Fall	Credits
Choose 9 credits from designated elective list:	9
RGSC 452	Vegetation Measurements for Rangeland Assessment
RGSC 516	Arid Land Management
RGSC 520	Arid Land Plant Herbivore Interactions
RGSC 550	Special Topics
RGSC 551	Earth Data Retrieval
RGSC 575	Climate Studies, Water and Society
Credits	9

Spring

Choose 9 credits from designated elective list:	9
RGSC 460	Rangeland and Natural Resource Planning and Management
RGSC 509	Approaches to Rangeland Research
RGSC 518	Watershed Methods and Management
RGSC 585	Land Cover Analysis for Natural Resources
RGSC 525	Advanced Rangeland Restoration Ecology
RGSC 550	Special Topics
RGSC 557	Advanced Grass Taxonomy and Identification
RGSC 589	Landscape Hydrology Modeling
Credits	9

Second Year

Fall	Credits
RGSC 515	Graduate Seminar
Choose 4 credits from elective list:	4
RGSC 516	Arid Land Management
RGSC 520	Arid Land Plant Herbivore Interactions

RGSC 550	Special Topics	
RGSC 551	Earth Data Retrieval	
RGSC 575	Climate Studies, Water and Society	
RGSC 599	Master's Thesis	
RGSC 598	Special Research Program (Non-Thesis Route)	0-1
Credits		5-6
Spring		
RGSC 515	Graduate Seminar	1
Choose 6 credits from elective list:		6
RGSC 518	Watershed Methods and Management	
RGSC 525	Advanced Rangeland Restoration Ecology	
RGSC 550	Special Topics	
RGSC 557	Advanced Grass Taxonomy and Identification	
RGSC 585	Land Cover Analysis for Natural Resources	
RGSC 589	Landscape Hydrology Modeling	
RGSC 599	Master's Thesis	
RGSC 598	Special Research Program (Non-Thesis Route)	0-1
Credits		7-8
Total Credits		30-32

MAP Requirements

- The Graduate School allows qualified junior or senior students to substitute its graduate courses for required or elective courses in an undergraduate degree program and then subsequently count those same course as fulfilling graduate requirements in a related graduate program.
- Undergraduate students may apply for acceptance to the accelerated master's program after completing 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework of which a minimum of 25 semester credit hours must be completed at NMSU.
- students may take 12 credits from the following courses.
- The grade point average must be at a minimum of 3.0.
- Students must receive a grade of B or higher in this coursework to be counted for graduate credit.

Prefix	Title	Credits
RGSC 518	Watershed Methods and Management	3
RGSC 520	Arid Land Plant Herbivore Interactions	3
RGSC 525	Advanced Rangeland Restoration Ecology	3
RGSC 557	Advanced Grass Taxonomy and Identification	3
RGSC 585	Land Cover Analysis for Natural Resources	3
EPWS 514	Plant Physiology	3