

## **Combined BS in Environmental Science and MS in Environmental Science and Biology**

### **Overview of the 3+2 Program**

The combined Bachelor of Science/Master of Science Program in Environmental Science and Biology is a “time-shortened” challenging program that seeks to engage the brightest, most capable students. At the undergraduate level, students complete most requirements for a BS in Environmental Science. Near the end of the first semester of the junior year, interested students apply for admission to the combined degree program.

Admission to the combined program is selective, restricted to students with exceptional records, and subject to the availability of a faculty member able to serve as a thesis advisor. Once admitted to the combined program, students simultaneously complete the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Master of Science in Environmental Science and Biology, which is a demanding, thesis-based experience. The curriculum is designed to challenge students to think critically, independently and creatively, while providing the intellectual breadth and depth necessary to support the research formally developed in the graduate thesis proposal.

A student the Master of Science portion of the combined program will be supervised by a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Science and Biology, or by an “associate” faculty member from the Departments of the Earth Sciences or Chemistry. The advisor is responsible for mentoring and directing the student’s graduate academic program: Program of Study, Thesis Proposal, Oral Comprehensive Examination, Thesis Project and Thesis Defense.

### **Admission Requirements**

Admission into the combined BS/MS program in Environmental Science and Biology is highly competitive and is based on previous academic performance, experience and letters of recommendation. Applicants must have a minimum 3.4 GPA. Ultimately, whether or not the applicant can be accepted will depend on his or her credentials, intended area of specialization, and the ability of a faculty member to accept a new graduate advisee.

### **Program Requirements**

Students pursuing the BS/MS degree are required to complete a minimum of 138 semester hours. Of these, a minimum of 30 credits are at the graduate level and a minimum of 108 credits are at the undergraduate level. Undergraduate requirements include all core and many concentration courses needed for the BS in Environmental Science, as well as all College at Brockport General Education requirements. Graduate requirements include all courses and requirements for the traditional MS in Environmental Science and Biology.

### **Funding Opportunities**

One teaching assistantship and research assistantships for faculty research projects may be available. Graduate internships may be arranged with government agencies and private organizations, including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy.

### How to Apply

Before applying to the combined program, students must have met the college admissions criteria and been admitted to the undergraduate program at the college. Students should apply for admission to the combined degree program by 15 November during the first semester of the junior year (defined as at least 75 credits and the undergraduate core curriculum completed by end of the second semester the junior year). Transfer students may be considered for the BS/MS program after taking 15 credits of course work at The College at Brockport. Qualified applicants will be interviewed by the Graduate Committee of the Department of Environmental Science and Biology, which will decide on admission to the program between the end of the fall term and the beginning of the following spring term.

### Applications/Program Contact

Application packages are available from the Department Secretary in Room 105 Lennon. An application includes a statement of objectives for graduate study, including the applicant's main area of interest within environmental science, and the names of potential faculty advisors; a writing sample of at least three pages demonstrating the applicant's technical writing skills; and two letters of recommendation. Achievement of the minimum standards for admission does not guarantee acceptance. **Before applying, it is strongly recommended that you meet with one or more faculty members with whom you may be interested in working on a research project and/or the Graduate Committee Chairman.**