

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Wildlife Division  
Minimum Course Requirements for  
Select Entry Level Biologist Positions  
August 21, 2019

Many (though not all) positions within the Wildlife Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department require graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree preferably in Wildlife Science, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Ecology, Range and Wildlife Management, or closely related field in Natural Resources Management. To ensure we are obtaining consistency in the qualification of new hires with an appropriate foundation in wildlife management, bachelor's or post-bachelor's degrees that meet these criteria must include major coursework with a minimum of 24 hours in Wildlife/Habitat Conservation, Wildlife/Natural Resources Management, Wildlife Biology, and/or Research Methods. This requirement is applicable only to Wildlife Division positions requiring a wildlife degree, most of which are classified as Natural Resources Specialists. Current Associate Wildlife Biologist certification OR current Certified Wildlife Biologist certification issued by the Wildlife Society may substitute for the required minimum of 24 hours in the courses discussed below.

The 24-hour coursework requirement for these positions closely aligns with The Wildlife Society certification requirements which includes 12 semester hours in Wildlife Management or Wildlife Biology. Historically, these courses have been the first step in determining eligibility. Below are the defining criteria for the required 12 hours of Wildlife Management/Wildlife Biology.

- Wildlife Management - Courses emphasizing the principles and practices of wildlife management. Courses should focus on understanding and manipulating wildlife habitats and population dynamics in the context of human objectives and influences. Conservation biology courses count if they contain a specific focus on management and decision-making.
- Wildlife Biology - Courses in the biology and behavior of birds, mammals, reptiles, or amphibians. Courses should focus on the biology of wildlife species and their habitat relationships as the basis for management, and primarily involve courses such as natural history of the vertebrates, mammalogy, ornithology, or herpetology.

Below is an abridged list of courses that meet our education requirements for the 12 core hours in Wildlife Management/Wildlife Biology (derived from curricula of universities in Texas that offer programs in Wildlife). This list continues on page 2.

- Animal Ecology
- Avian Ecology and Management
- Big Game Ecology
- Big Game Management
- Biological Resources: Conservation and Planning
- Bird Conservation and Management
- Conservation Biology (with a specific focus on management and decision-making)
- Ecological Restoration of Plant Communities
- Ecology and Conservation of Natural Resources
- Ecology and Management of Game Birds
- Ecology for Natural Resource Managers
- Ecology of the Coastal Zone
- Field Ecology of Birds
- Field Methods in Wildlife and Conservation Science
- Fire Ecology
- Forest Wildlife Habitat Management

- Habitat Management
- Herpetology
- Human Dimensions of Fish and Wildlife Management
- Introduction to Wildlife and Fisheries
- Large Mammal Ecology and Management
- Mammalogy
- Natural History of the Vertebrates
- Nongame Ecology and Management
- Ornithology
- Predator Ecology and Conservation
- Principles of Waterfowl Management
- Principles of Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Range and Wildlife Habitat Management
- Range and Wildlife Research Methods
- Restoration Ecology
- The Ecology and Conservation of Natural Resources
- Upland Game Ecology
- Urban Wildlife and Fisheries
- Wetland Ecology and Management
- Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Wildlife Habitat Ecology and Management
- Wildlife Management
- Wildlife Management Techniques
- Wildlife Population Biology
- Wildlife Population Dynamics
- Wildlife Population Ecology
- Wildlife Restoration

In addition to the required 12 hours of Wildlife Management/Wildlife Biology, the remaining balance to reach the 24 hours coursework requirement should be in Ecology, Botany, Plant Taxonomy, Dendrology, Silviculture, Zoology, Rangeland Management, Wildlife Law, Wildlife Diseases, Genetics, Research Methods, Soil Sciences, GIS/Remote Sensing, and Statistics & Experimental Design.