DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Timothy G. Fisher, chair
Von Sigler, associate chair
Daryl L. Moorhead, graduate adviser

The department of environmental sciences (DES) offers graduate degrees in geology and biology at the master's level and in biology at the doctoral level. Students entering the M.S. or Ph.D. programs are expected to have an adequate background in the natural sciences and mathematics, but may be admitted on a provisional basis if they lack such a background. Complete program details are available at the department website.

Mission Statement

Using a unified, interdisciplinary approach, we will advance knowledge and train future professionals to address environmental problems of societal value that will ultimately improve the quality of life of the region, the state and the nation while promoting sustainable economic development.

General Description

The Toledo region offers potential students an ideal natural laboratory for studies in ecology, geology, and environmental sciences because it is located where unique natural habitats and landforms occur in proximity to high human population and natural resource use. Toledo is in northwestern Ohio, on the western shore of Lake Erie (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Erie) at the mouth of the Maumee River (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maumee_river). The greater metropolitan area is characterized by glacial terrains, and agricultural, urban, and natural ecosystems. Local rivers, Lake Erie's productive fisheries and wetlands, the remarkable diversity of the Oak Openings (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_Openings_Preserve_Metropark) savannas and woodlands, and wetland remnants of the Great Black Swamp (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Black_Swamp), make the Toledo region a dynamic location for the study of environmental sciences as well as an enjoyable place to live and work.

The Department's strengths in graduate education and research are in the areas of: Earth surface processes; aquatic, landscape, microbial, plant, soil, systems ecology; and bioremediation and phyto remediation. Research in other areas of both ecology and geology is also conducted. Much of this research occurs in the Toledo region, and often in other parts of the US and the world.

Degrees Offered

- **MS in Geology** (http://utoledo-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/natural-sciences-mathematics/departments/environmental-sciences/ms-geology)
- **MSE in Geology** (https://catalog.utoledo.edu/graduate/natural-sciences-mathematics/departments/environmental-sciences/mse-geology)
- **PhD in Biology** (Ecology Track) (http://utoledo-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/natural-sciences-mathematics/departments/environmental-sciences/phd-biology-ecology-track)

EEES 5100 Advanced Glacial Geology
[3 credit hours]
To understand glaciers and glacial landscapes. Topics include mass balance, ice flow, hydrology, erosion, deposition, landforms, glacial lakes and development of the Ohio glacial landscape. Field trip is mandatory.
**Prerequisites:** EEES 3100 with a minimum grade of D-
**Term Offered:** Spring

EEES 5150 Organic Evolution
[3 credit hours]
The modern theory of evolution is presented within a general framework of biological and geological evidence focusing on the fossil record, early biomolecules, protein synthesis, genetics, phylogeny and vertebrate evolution.
**Term Offered:** Spring, Summer

EEES 5160 Advanced Environmental Data Management
[3 credit hours]
A course in data management for environmental science graduate students covering the basics of data management practices and the use of Excel and R for data preparation, evaluation, analysis, visualization, and interpretation.
**Term Offered:** Fall

EEES 5200 Advanced Quaternary Geology
[3 credit hours]
To provide understanding of such cyclical events as climate change, sea level fluctuations, vegetation change and ice sheet paleogeography during the Quaternary Period and to explore future changes for planet Earth.
**Term Offered:** Spring

EEES 5220 Environmental Geochemistry
[3 credit hours]
Chemical reactions of environmental concern. Water and soil chemistry related to contaminant fate and mobility. Computer software used.
**Term Offered:** Spring, Fall

EEES 5240 Soil Science
[3 credit hours]
Basic principles of soil formation of physics, chemistry and biology with emphasis on their influence on fluid and chemical migration and preservation of soil quality from geological, agricultural and environmental perspectives.
**Term Offered:** Spring

EEES 5250 Soil Ecology
[3 credit hours]
Underlying concepts and theory of modern soil ecology will be reviewed including the biogeochemical cycles and ecological functions of soil, and the effects of human activities. (Spring, alternate years, odd)
**Prerequisites:** (BIOL 3050 with a minimum grade of D- and EEES 4240 with a minimum grade of D) or (BIOL 3050 with a minimum grade of D- and EEES 5240 with a minimum grade of D-)
**Term Offered:** Spring, Fall
EEES 5260 Soil Ecology Laboratory
[1 credit hour]
Laboratory exercises designed to complement the material covered in EEES 5250.

Corequisites: EEES 5250

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 5350 Ecology and Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians
[3 credit hours]
Ecology, diversity, evolution, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. Lectures will discuss natural history, trait diversity, evolutionary context, and ecological implications of amphibians and reptiles. Hands-on activities will include taxonomy and identification of local species, survey and field methods, and discussions of scientific literature. Throughout this course, the biology of amphibians and reptiles will be emphasized in the context of conservation.

Term Offered: Spring

EEES 5410 Hydrogeology
[3 credit hours]
Fundamentals of groundwater/earth interactions are introduced concentrating on physical aspects of groundwater flow with applications to the field of water resources and contaminant investigations. This course is designed as the fundamental course in groundwater for students who plan to use hydrogeology in their careers, e.g., environmental geologists, civil and environmental engineers, environmental specialists and scientists, and petroleum geologists.

Prerequisites: MATH 1750 with a minimum grade of D- or MATH 1850 with a minimum grade of D- or MATH 1830 with a minimum grade of D- or MATH 1920 with a minimum grade of D-

Term Offered: Spring

EEES 5450 Hazardous Waste Management
[3 credit hours]
Environmental regulations concerning hazardous waste, characteristics of hazardous waste and disposal technologies, toxicology, characteristics of organic chemicals and heavy metals, biodegradation, soil science, groundwater contamination, risk assessment, site investigation.

Term Offered: Fall

EEES 5480 GIS Applications in ENSC
[3 credit hours]
An applications course focused on using GIS techniques and applications in environmental problems and research.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 5490 Remote Sensing of the Environment
[4 credit hours]
Introduction to theory, methods and techniques used to gather and analyze remote sensor data. Topics range from low altitude air photo interpretation through satellite image acquisition.

Prerequisites: GEPL 3550 with a minimum grade of D- and EEES 2100 with a minimum grade of D-

Term Offered: Fall

EEES 5510 Environmental Microbiology
[3 credit hours]
Microbial diversity and activities in an applied environmental context. Topics include function of microbial ecosystems in energy and carbon flow, bioremediation, and the detection and control of pathogens.

Prerequisites: (EEES 2150 with a minimum grade of D- and CHEM 1230 with a minimum grade of D-)

Term Offered: Fall

EEES 5520 Bioremediation
[3 credit hours]
The environmental fate and transport of contaminants; their transformation and biodegradation by plants and microorganisms; bioremediation strategies, including solid phase, slurry phase and vapor-phase treatments, and natural attenuation.

EEES 5540 Advanced Microbial Ecology
[3 credit hours]
An advanced course focusing on the ecology and public health role of microbes with emphasis on the epidemiology of infectious disease outbreaks.

Term Offered: Fall

EEES 5550 Advanced Methods Of Microbial Investigation
[3 credit hours]
Student will learn the classical and current methodologies (biochemical and molecular) used in microbial community analysis while developing an understanding of experimental design sample handling and data analysis.

Prerequisites: EEES 5540 with a minimum grade of D-

EEES 5610 Solid Earth Geophysics
[3 credit hours]
Survey of theory, field applications, interpretation principles of solid earth and exploration geophysics. Two hours lecture, three hours methods laboratory.

Prerequisites: (PHYS 2070 with a minimum grade of D- and PHYS 2080 with a minimum grade of D- and MATH 1850 with a minimum grade of D- and MATH 1860 with a minimum grade of D-)

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 5630 Numerical Methods In Geophysics
[3 credit hours]
Numerical filters and matrix operations used to process potential field data and waveforms, isolating anomalies and signals of interest; derivative maps, upward and downward continuation; current interpretation software. Term project.

Prerequisites: EEES 5610 with a minimum grade of D-

Term Offered: Spring

EEES 5650 Advanced Geology Field Studies
[1-4 credit hours]
Intensive field studies to various areas of geologic interest. Studies may involve various geologic field methods and descriptive techniques. Course may be repeated multiple times. Fall and Spring.
EEES 5730 Advanced Aquatic Ecology
[3 credit hours]
Advanced cross-disciplinary concepts in the ecology of aquatic environments emphasizing the biology of populations, communities and ecosystems. Includes a project on the application of principles and theory to help understand and solve a management problem in aquatic systems.
Prerequisites: EEES 3050 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Fall

EEES 5740 Advanced Aquatic Ecology Laboratory
[1 credit hour]
Laboratory exercises on the biology of aquatic populations, communities and ecosystems.
Corequisites: EEES 5730
Term Offered: Fall

EEES 5750 Advanced Conservation Biology
[4 credit hours]
Advanced cross-disciplinary concepts in the application of principles and theory to the study and maintenance of biological diversity in temperate, subtropical and tropical systems. Lectures, classroom discussion and readings.
Prerequisites: EEES 3050 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring

EEES 5760 Advanced Landscape Ecology
[3 credit hours]
This course is for graduate students from a variety of disciplines. Emphasis will be placed on up-to-date knowledge and methods in landscape analysis, pattern-process relationship and potential management applications at multiple spatial and temporal scales.
Prerequisites: EEES 3050 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring

EEES 5790 Ecology Field Study
[2-4 credit hours]
Field study of globally significant ecosystem(s), including analysis of structural and functional relationships within and between ecosystems. Opportunities for individual student projects.
Prerequisites: EEES 3050 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring, Summer

EEES 6100 Glacial Stratigraphy And Geophysics
[3 credit hours]
To integrate glacial sedimentology and stratigraphy, with near-surface, geophysical methodologies. Field work to collect a variety of field data to analyze in the lab is mandatory. Data to be presented as posters.
Term Offered: Fall

EEES 6160 Advanced Environmental Data Management
[3 credit hours]
A course in data management for environmental science graduate students covering the basics of data management practices and the use of Excel and R for data preparation, evaluation, analysis, visualization, and interpretation.

EEES 6250 Graduate Launch
[1 credit hour]
This course prepares graduate students for success by preparing individual study plans, research proposals and presentations, and launching bibliographic research.
Term Offered: Fall

EEES 6400 Biostatistics
[4 credit hours]
Application of statistical inference with environmental and ecological data, including estimation, testing of hypotheses, and statistical modeling.
Prerequisites: EEES 6160 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 6440 Contaminant Hydrogeology
[3 credit hours]
Groundwater contaminant sources, impacts, transport, geochemistry and remediation in relation to geological environments with attention to sampling, detection, characterization, modeling and aquifer protection.
Prerequisites: EEES 5410 with a minimum grade of D-

EEES 6450 Advanced Applied Hydrogeology
[3 credit hours]
Applications of hydrogeological monitoring, analyses and modeling using mathematics, statistics and computers. Subjects include: well field and pump test design, sampling strategies, data presentation and analysis and modeling fundamentals.
Prerequisites: EEES 5410 with a minimum grade of D-

EEES 6500 Multivariable Geostatistics
[3 credit hours]
Application of multivariate statistical methods to scientific data. Emphasis is on applied regression, cluster, principal components, factor, correspondence, canonical correlation and discriminant analyses.
Prerequisites: EEES 6400 with a minimum grade of D-

EEES 6600 Foundations Of Ecology
[4 credit hours]
This course is a thorough review of ecological concepts for graduate students. Readings and discussion include classic papers and historical essays.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 6650 Statistical Modeling in Environmental Sciences
[4 credit hours]
Statistical modeling techniques applied to environmental problems, with an emphasis on multilevel modeling.
Prerequisites: EEES 6400 with a minimum grade of D-

EEES 6810 Writing For The Environmental Sciences
[3 credit hours]
Learn to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded. This course focuses on building the fundamental skills required for effective scientific writing. Writing exercises focus on improving the clarity and persuasiveness of student theses, manuscripts, and proposals. This course is for anyone who wants to improve their science writing, is writing theses or proposals, or who may have to write on the job.

EEES 6930 Seminar
[1 credit hour]
Individual presentation and discussion of papers in the environmental sciences.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall
EEES 6960 Thesis Research
[1-15 credit hours]
Research on a particular geologic problem leading to a written thesis which must be presented and defended before a faculty committee.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

EEES 6980 Special Topics
[1-4 credit hours]
A graduate course covering some aspect of environmental sciences not covered in the formal graduate curriculum. Students may repeat the course for credit as topics vary.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

EEES 6990 Independent Study
[1-4 credit hours]
Student selects an approved subject for individual study and prepares a detailed report, or gives equivalent evidence of mastering of the selected subject. Taken only as S/U.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

EEES 7150 Organic Evolution
[3 credit hours]
The modern theory of evolution is presented within a general framework of biological and geological evidence focusing on the fossil record, early biomolecules, protein synthesis, genetics, phylogeny and vertebrate evolution.
Term Offered: Spring

EEES 7730 Advanced Aquatic Ecology
[3 credit hours]
Advanced cross-disciplinary concepts in the ecology of aquatic environments emphasizing the biology of populations, communities and ecosystems. Includes a project on the application of principles and theory to help understand and solve a management problem in aquatic systems.
Prerequisites: EEES 3050 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Fall

EEES 7740 Advanced Aquatic Ecology Laboratory
[1 credit hour]
Laboratory exercises on the biology of aquatic populations, communities and ecosystems.
Corequisites: EEES 7730
Term Offered: Fall

EEES 7750 Advanced Conservation Biology
[4 credit hours]
Advanced cross-disciplinary concepts in the application of principles and theory to the study and maintenance of biological diversity in temperate, subtropical and tropical systems. Lectures, classroom discussion and readings.
Prerequisites: EEES 3050 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring

EEES 7790 Ecology Field Trip
[2-4 credit hours]
Field study of globally significant ecosystems, including analysis of structural and functional relationships within and between ecosystems. Opportunities for individual student projects.
Prerequisites: EEES 3050 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring, Summer

EEES 8250 Graduate Launch
[1 credit hour]
This course prepares graduate students for success by preparing individual study plans, research proposals and presentations, and launching bibliographic research.
Term Offered: Fall

EEES 8400 Biostatistics
[4 credit hours]
Application of statistical inference with environmental and ecological data, including estimation, testing of hypotheses, and statistical modeling.
Prerequisites: EEES 6160 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 8500 Multivariate Geostatistics
[3 credit hours]
Application of multivariate statistical methods to scientific data. Emphasis is on applied regression, cluster, principal components, factor, correspondence, canonical correlation and discriminant analyses.
Prerequisites: EEES 8400 with a minimum grade of D-

EEES 8600 Foundations Of Ecology
[4 credit hours]
This course is a thorough review of ecological concepts for graduate students. Readings and discussion include classic papers and historical essays.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 8650 Statistical Modeling in Environmental Sciences
[4 credit hours]
Application of statistical inference with environmental and ecological data, including estimation, testing of hypotheses, and statistical modeling.
Prerequisites: EEES 6160 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 8660 Doctoral Dissertation Research
[1-15 credit hours]
Research on a particular problem leading to a written dissertation that must be presented and defended before a faculty committee.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

EEES 8810 Writing For The Environmental Sciences
[3 credit hours]
Learn to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded. This course focuses on building the fundamental skills required for effective scientific writing. Writing exercises focus on improving the clarity and persuasiveness of student theses, manuscripts, and proposals. This course is for anyone who wants to improve their science writing, is writing theses or proposals, or who may have to write on the job.

EEES 8930 Seminar In Ecology
[1 credit hour]
Presentation on research or current literature by graduate doctoral students, faculty or guest speakers.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

EEES 8960 Doctoral Dissertation Research
[1-15 credit hours]
Research on a particular problem leading to a written dissertation that must be presented and defended before a faculty committee.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

EEES 8980 Advanced Topics In Ecology
[2-4 credit hours]
Course covering some aspect of ecology not covered in the formal graduate curriculum. Students may repeat the course for different topics.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall
EEES 8990 Advanced Readings In Ecology
[2-4 credit hours]
Faculty-directed readings or projects in a specific area of ecology.
Students may repeat the course for different topics.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall