

Connecting with an Advisor

Applicants will be evaluated by the Admissions Committee for preliminary acceptance based on the program's academic admissions criteria. Candidates who pass this initial review will be requested to solicit a program advisor prior to final acceptance. The Admissions Committee will make initial recommendations for potential advisors among our regular faculty, courtesy faculty, and instructors. You can learn more about the expertise of [Fisheries and Wildlife faculty](#) and contact them directly to explore mutual interests. Often, courtesy faculty who are employees of state and federal agencies are good advisors, as long as they have time to work with you. It is up to you to contact potential advisors and secure a commitment from an advisor before admission.

When you contact prospective advisors, it is best to give them information about you, why you want to join the PSM program, and your general interests for your internship. A general timeline for your degree can help an advisor understand the time commitment involved. Some faculty are not very familiar with PSMFWA, so linking them to the program website is also useful. See the attached template letter, and modify it as you like for specific faculty.

Your faculty advisor will act as your major professor through your PSM program. He or she will review your planned coursework, meet with you regularly (electronically), help you find committee members and schedule committee meetings, review your documents and project products, and help you prepare for your defense. Finally, your advisor will sign your defense paperwork when you complete the program.

The Online Graduate Programs Advisors will assist students with curriculum planning and making contact with potential advisors. They will also monitor student progress and alert the student's advisor and the Distance Education Coordinator in the event of any problems with academic performance and progress.

A preliminary timeline should be included with your application materials. Once you are admitted to the program, you must also file a [Program of Study form](#) with the Graduate School prior to completion of your first 18 credits. Please give a copy of your signed Program of Study form to the Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Program Coordinator *and* to Dr. Heppell, the PSMFWA Program Director.

Be sure to check our website

<http://fw.oregonstate.edu/content/psm-fisheries-wildlife-administration>

and our Blackboard organization site (FW Online Graduate Programs, org 390849) for program updates.

Date

Dear Dr. _____,

I am applying to the Professional Science Masters in Fisheries and Wildlife Administration (PSMFWA) program, starting in (term, year). I am looking for a major professor to advise me through this non-thesis degree program. I reviewed your website and was very interested in X, Y, Z.

I want to join the PSMFWA program because.....X, Y. I have a background in X and have worked at (agency, company, other relevant experience).

I am currently working at (place), and plan to continue working (part time or full time) through my degree. I have taken X courses online, Y of which will transfer to PSMFWA, and expect to take (number of courses per term). My projected completion term for the degree is (date).

PSMFWA does not require a thesis, but does require a project through an internship-like experience. For my internship, I would love to (make suggestions). I think your experience in X can help me develop my Internship Plan and project products for review and defense.

You can learn more about PSMFWA through the website
<http://fw.oregonstate.edu/content/psm-fisheries-wildlife-administration>

or by contacting Selina Heppell, the PSMFWA Program Director
(Selina.heppell@oregonstate.edu). I hope that my experience and interests are a good match for you to serve as my advisor, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Name, contact info