



FAQ: The EEB Graduate Program at the University of Oklahoma

What are the benefits to entering the EEB program?

- 1) You will be part of an interactive, and interdisciplinary degree program. We meet to present findings and discuss the program weekly in our Ecomunch seminar. The EEB Spring Celebration (which in 2007 featured the likes of Brendan Bohannon, Pamela Matson, and Al Gore) will be a periodic event, giving you access to some of the great minds in our field. Our faculty are developing proposals to generate RA support for EEB students.
- 2) EEB is growing. We are a community of scholars that reaches outside BOMI and ZOO to six other departments across campus. We have high expectations, and are looking to the future.
- 3) You will graduate from the University of Oklahoma with a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (with an emphasis in his/her home department).

How do I join EEB when I'm applying to graduate schools?

- 1) The student must be accepted into the Ph.D. program of Botany/Micro or Zoology. The student must be nominated by an EEB faculty member
- 2) The advisor, working with the student must submit a yearly progress report to the Steering Committee.
- 3) The student must take BOMI/ZOO 5453 *Advanced Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*, upon entering the program (i.e., the first cohort will take the Fall 2005 offering).
- 4) The student must enroll twice (and give a seminar each time) in ZOO/BOMI 5471 *Seminar in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*. Regular attendance, enrolled or not, is expected.

How do I join EEB if I'm already a graduate student in BOMI or ZOO?

As long as you meet the requirements set forth above, you can join the EEB graduate program.

- 1) A brief letter of nomination from the major advisor.
- 2) A brief letter of application from the prospective student.

Both can be emailed to the director of the EEB graduate program (mkaspari@ou.edu). If you have given an Ecomunch in the past, this will be counted toward your required two, although you will still be required to enroll for two semesters.

I am putting together my committee. Who can serve?

As a cross-departmental, interdisciplinary program the key aspect in committee structure revolves around the outside committee member. The Grad College sees this person as its eyes and ears with a responsibility to be an advocate above the politics of the student's department and/or academic unit. As such the rules are a little different from

those of ZOO or BOMI, where we have often relied on the other to provide our outside committee member. Your committee can be arranged in one of two ways:

- 1) Up to 4 EEB faculty and one member outside EEB and your home department that is a member of the OU-Norman faculty (note only BOMI and ZOO faculty are members of the EEB faculty);
- 2) Up to 5 EEB faculty, and an observer appointed by the Grad College, and will attend faculty meetings at least through your orals.

What is Advanced Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 5453?

This is the classic title of introductory courses in EEB programs across the globe. It meets on Thursdays from 6:00PM -8:20 or so. On most weeks, a different EEB faculty presents a 50-minute lecture related to his/her work, and then leads a discussion over a paper assignment related to that work. On a few weeks, the EEB director will lead you through a series of exercises in time management, presentation, and other survival skills for Academia. By the end of the semester, you will have an excellent idea of the range of work performed by EEB faculty across campus, as well as know your cohort far better. Students and faculty are encouraged to continue the discussion after class. Contact mkaspari@ou.edu for permission.

What is Seminar in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 5471?

That's *Ecomunch*, the weekly sit-down where EEB students and faculty and the occasional guest give informal presentations on their work. It is a perfect venue to polish your speaking skills and get some feedback *before* you are writing a project up for publication. It's Tuesdays, from 12-1. Larry Weider is in charge of Ecomunch this semester, despite what the course schedule says.

Do we have a website?

You bet: <http://www.ou.edu/eeb/>. Let us know of any changes additions, announcements you want posted.