

Biogeochemistry Graduate Fellows Program
Sponsored by
Wetland Biogeochemistry Laboratory
Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences Department

Dr. K. R. Reddy established the Wetland Biogeochemistry Laboratory (WBL) in 1982 within the Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences Department (SWESD). The WBL has established an endowment to support and promote research and education in biogeochemical cycling of macro-elements, metals, and toxic organic compounds in terrestrial, wetlands, and aquatic ecosystems with a focus on ecosystem productivity, climate change, water quality, and sea level rise. Some of the income derived from this endowment will support current and future activities of SWESD graduate students working in the area of “Biogeochemistry.” These funds can be used by students pursuing basic and applied research in biogeochemistry for travel, visiting nationally recognized labs to learn new techniques, participating in scientific meetings related to their research, and presenting research at national and international conferences.

The primary selection criteria include a) meeting the eligibility requirements to apply as stated below and b) evidence of proposed or current research at any scale (molecular to landscape level) that has a significant emphasis on linkages to terrestrial, urban, wetlands, and aquatic systems, and c) graduate student commitment to actively contribute to SWES/SNRE initiatives during the graduate program.

Biogeochemistry Graduate Fellow Terms

- Fellow Awards begin in January of each year
- A maximum of two new Fellows (PhD) and one new Fellow (MS - Thesis) will be awarded annually.
- Fellows in the PhD program will receive \$2,000 to support their research, and Fellows in the MS – Thesis program will receive \$1,000 to support their research.
- Nominations are required by October 2nd or by a revised date each year.

Biogeochemistry Graduate Fellows will:

- Present their research at the SWESD Annual Research Forum
- Display a research poster on the departmental poster board.
- Acknowledge WBL funding source in publications and presentations.
- Take a leadership role in promoting the SWES/SNRE Biogeochemistry activities within and outside the department.

Eligibility

- SWES Ph.D. and M.S. (Thesis) students and SNRE (IE program) advised by SWES Tenured and Non-Tenure Track faculty and SWES Affiliate Faculty.

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- Student must be enrolled full time as a graduate student for the full calendar year during the year fellowship is awarded.
- Superior academic performance interpreted as a graduate GPA of 3.50 or higher.
- Graduate students are eligible for re-nomination (only for Ph.D students) following a one-year hiatus after holding the WBL Fellowship.

Biogeochemistry Graduate Fellow Application

Students are encouraged to apply for these Fellowships. To apply, a student must submit the following:

- Letter outlining their qualifications for the Fellowship.
- A copy of the research proposal (2 pages single spaced) describing motivation in addressing scientific questions.
- Completed IDP (Individual Development Academic Plan) must be on file with SWESD Admin Office for Ph.D students and optional for M.S students.
- Letter (limited to 200 words or less) of endorsement from the major advisor indicating the importance of research related to the biogeochemistry program area.
- Additional support material may be submitted if the student wishes to do so and feels it will strengthen her/his application.
- Provide information on how funds will be spent. Funds should be used for travel to attend professional state, national, or international meetings to present research or visit laboratories to learn new research techniques. Funds should not be used to purchase routine lab or field supplies.

Biogeochemistry Graduate Fellow Selection Process

The SWESD committee appointed by the department chair will review the nominations and make recommendations for the award. A maximum of two new Fellows (PhD) and one new Fellow (MS - Thesis) will be awarded annually.