PARTICIPATION

Twelve academic colleges and units participate. Currently, 296 faculty in 41 departments across these units hold affiliate faculty status.

- Agricultural and Life Sciences
- Business Administration
- Design Construction and Planning
- Engineering
- Health and Human Performance
- Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Journalism and Communication
- Law
- Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Center for Latin American Studies
- Museum of Natural History

The governance structure consists of:

- Advisory Board consisting of Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, VP for Research, Deans of COE, CALS, CLAS, Provost (ex-officio)
- Faculty Advisory Council with 11 elected members from COE, CALS, CLAS and at-large
- External Advisory Council with representatives from industry, government, non-governmental organizations and academia.

PRODUCING TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

BS/BA in Environmental Science – These degrees provide a comprehensive preparation for entering the environmental job market or advancing to a graduate degree program in a wide range of disciplines. Most students seek the Bachelor of Science Degree, which offers specializations in Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management, Toxicology, Environmental Policy, Environmental Policy and Business and Environmental Education. Enrollment declined from about 180 to 80 in 2004-05, following a national as economic and geopolitical issues pushed environmental affairs lower on the public agenda. The trend reversed in 2005-06 and enrollment reached 112 in 2007-08.

MS/PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology – The master’s and doctoral curricula in Interdisciplinary Ecology combine (1) coursework in the basic and applied science of ecology and the social, political, and economic sciences with (2) competence in an approved program in one of these fields of study. The former is achieved with a core-course and distribution requirement. The latter is achieved by extra coursework for the master’s degree and a concentration for the doctoral degree. Students choose from 347 courses, 296 faculty advisors, and 41 participating departments. Research areas of ecology graduate students range across natural resource ecology, environmental policy, human dimensions of natural resources and sustainable development. These degree programs are designed for students desiring an integrative approach to complex environmental problems.

The graduate degree program has grown steadily since inception, from 21 enrolled in fall 1999 to 145 in fall 2007. A total of 144 have graduated through summer 2008. About 52 percent of current graduate students are doctoral students. Affiliate faculty in CALS, CLAS, and COE serve as the majority of advisors for the MS and PhD Interdisciplinary Ecology students.

Research Assistantships – Seventy-one of the 145 graduate students were provided stipends, tuition, and health insurance through the SNRE-Academic Programs budget in 2007-08. Many of the others receive financial support through the faculty advisors’ home departments, from other sources or are self-supporting. SNRE encourages the faculty to recruit the best graduate applicants by allocating funds accordingly. Results of this selectivity are apparent in the GRE scores of domestic applicants admitted. Recruiting of new graduate students for fall 2007 and fall 2008 slowed due to reduced funding caused by cut-backs in state appropriations to the university. Thirty-two new
Enrollment and graduates in Environmental Science BS and BA (1995-2008)

Enrollment and graduates in Interdisciplinary Ecology MS and PhD (1999-2008)
students matriculated in fall 2007, compared with 50 the previous year. Twenty-five are expected to matriculate in fall 2008. The number graduating is now catching up with the number matriculating, so enrollment growth is likely to level out over the next few years.

**Research and Outreach/Extension**

SNRE continued its involvement in maintaining and developing research and outreach/Extension programs and activities during 2006-07. However, because of cutbacks in state appropriations, SNRE began transitioning out of this area in spring, 2008, and in the future will focus on its academic degree programs. Significant accomplishments during the past year include:

- The Natural Resource Leadership Institute (NRLI) graduated its 7th class of 20 fellows at the end of 2007. Since the beginning of NRLI in 1998-1999, a total of 135 fellows have completed the year-long program. The 2008 class began in January, 2008, and beginning July 1, 2008, NRLI will be managed by the Food and Resource Economics Department. You can read more about NRLI at [http://nrli.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://nrli.ifas.ufl.edu/).

- The Natural Areas Training Academy (NATA) also completed its seventh year of operation during 2006-07. NATA provides opportunities for public and private resource managers to receive up-to-date and practical information and training in the techniques and management strategies relevant to protecting Florida's natural areas. The Certificate in Natural Areas Management is awarded upon completion of a series of five workshops. Conducted in the past in partnership with the Nature Conservancy, NATA is currently negotiating to become a University of Florida program. In the meantime, more can be learned about NATA at [http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/](http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/).

- The Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) teaches the adoption of best design, construction and management practices in new residential community developments that measurably reduce energy use, water consumption and environmental degradation. Beginning July 1, 2008, PREC will be conducted as part of IFAS Extension with contact information at [http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/](http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/).

- The successful SNRE mini-grants program continued to deliver strong results. As of May 2007, the $117K in seed funding and new faculty grants during 2006-07 generated $1.7M in “follow-on” grants funded, 12 peer-reviewed publications, 26 presentations/workshops, 19 grants submitted and 11 other project specific deliverables. Another $1.5M in follow-on proposals is still pending. The mini-grants program was terminated in spring 2008 due to funding cutbacks.

- An interdisciplinary project entitled “Economic development, community involvement and planning for the future in Hamilton County, Florida” was initiated in fall 2007. The goal of the project is to provide a socioeconomic assessment, assess citizen and local government perceptions toward economic development and land use planning, determine the economic impact of existing and potential businesses and develop land use scenarios for the region and concept development plans for the three towns in the county. Departments involved in the project are Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Food and Resource Economics, The GeoPlan Center in the College of Design, Construction and Planning and the Hamilton County Extension Office.

- SNRE maintains an active website as the major gateway for people to access SNRE programs ([http://snre.ufl.edu/](http://snre.ufl.edu/)). The website was reorganized to focus principally on academic programs beginning July 1, 2008. SNRE also produces a newsletter (SNRE Source) three times each year. Readers can sign up to receive the Source electronically at the website.
Internal Review

Academic program reviews are conducted by mandate of the Florida Board of Governors every seven years to assess the quality of programs and to improve degree programs. The review is conducted internally and approved by the appropriate Dean and the Provost. During 2007-08 the first review of the Interdisciplinary Ecology master’s and doctoral program (both new in 1999-00) was conducted. The main findings are:

- SNRE has created a graduate degree program that is truly interdisciplinary, not just collaborative (among traditional departments). The graduates are able to enter the workplace and integrate the natural and social sciences to produce the products and services desired by their employers. This statement arises from feedback from both graduates and their employers, and some employers are now inserting into job descriptions “interdisciplinary experience desirable.”

- The graduate degree program has grown from 21 students (first year of program in 1999-00) to 145 students enrolled in fall 2007. In the last two years, PhD students have been more numerous than MS students. The entering qualifications of the students are high. The graduates readily enter the workplace and represent a new generation of scientists and professionals prepared to solve interdisciplinary problems.

- All the graduates since the inception of the degree program that can be located are employed, except 2 with family care or medical imperatives. Seventy-seven percent of the MS graduates and 47 percent of the PhD graduates are working within the US; the remainder work outside the US. The predominant type of employer for MS graduates is government agencies (27%), and 25% are working on a more advanced degree. For PhD graduates, university employment predominates (26%) followed by post-doc work (21%).

- Critical synergies have been developed with some units at UF. For example, more than half the graduate students in the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) program are SNRE graduate students. TCD is a staging ground for graduate students from Latin America and elsewhere to get their master’s degree (MALAS) and then move on to SNRE for the PhD, since Latin American Studies/TCD does not offer the PhD. This is an example of how SNRE complements other programs in constructive ways.

- Some success has been achieved in obtaining funding for graduate students from multiple budget units. This is establishing a strong positive tradition of fiscal collaboration and partnerships among departments and colleges that have different missions and academic cultures.

While these are significant achievements, there is still room for improvement. State funding for assistantships is declining while the demand for the degree programs keeps increasing. We will need to seek external funding and endowments to augment state funding to support students. While the affiliate faculty favor interdisciplinary teaching and research involving SNRE, working across traditional academic disciplinary lines is difficult and time consuming, and thus it needs facilitation. SNRE could encourage interdisciplinary work by adding a small group of collaborative faculty in subject areas where UF is currently understaffed. Funding for this will also need to be secured from outside sources, particularly in the near term. Finally, the academic culture in which SNRE operates could be enhanced by co-location in a building alongside other natural resource and environment related departments and units. The complete Board of Governor’s review can be found at the SNRE website.

The state of Florida is a bellwether state for problems and opportunities related to ecology and environment. Population growth, rapid change, and competing uses and values make Florida’s natural resources nationally and internationally important. The diversity and depth of UF’s academic expertise relating to ecology and environment is extraordinary. SNRE, through its campus-wide reach, is committed to enhancing the understanding of the interaction of natural systems and society and to develop intellectual capacity to address the environmental and natural resource issues facing Florida, the nation, and the world.