



Ph.D Positions Studying Critical Zone Processes in Drylands

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is recruiting Ph.D. students to work on a recently funded 'Critical Zone Thematic Cluster' grant to study carbon fluxes, ecohydrology, and nutrient availability in the carbonate-dominated soils of dryland ecosystems. The critical zone is the surface layer of the Earth from the top of the canopy to the groundwater that supports human life. This NSF-funded project is collaborative, interdisciplinary, and focuses on field-based investigations in Texas, New Mexico, and Idaho. PhD students will have an opportunity to work as part of an integrated scientific team of faculty at UTEP and other collaborative institutions, and foster connections within the scientific community centered around critical zone science.

Funding is available to cover stipends, project supplies, and travel costs. Ideal candidates would have substantial research experience and interest in geology, biology, or environmental sciences, strong communication skills, strong performance in science courses, and a desire to do field work. We especially encourage students interested in working on interdisciplinary topics that cross these fields of study. Ph.D. students on this project will initially work with our team on grant objectives, which they will then springboard into projects of their own independent design.

Based on your interests, three PhD programs are available through Departments of Geological Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences, and the Environmental Science & Engineering program. GRE scores are not required to apply.

If you are interested, please contact one or more of the project PI's listed on the People page in an area that matches your interests. We will answer any questions you have about the project and can direct you to a potential advisor in a relevant part of our project.