

# Natural Resources

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The College of Natural Resources has the following academic degree programs:

## College of Natural Resources

Master of Natural Resources (MNR)

## Aquatic, Watershed, and Earth Resources Department

Ecology (MS and PhD)

Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (BS)

Fisheries Biology (MS and PhD)

Watershed and Earth Systems (BS)

Watershed Science (MS and PhD)

## Environment and Society Department

Bioregional Planning (MS)

Environmental Studies (BS)

Geography (BS, BA, MS, and MA)

Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science  
and Management (MS and PhD)

Recreation Resource Management (BS, MS, and PhD)

## Forest, Range, and Wildlife Sciences Department

Conservation and Restoration Ecology (BS)

Ecology (MS and PhD)

Forestry (BS, MS, and PhD)

Rangeland Resources (BS)

Range Science (MS and PhD)

Wildlife Biology (MS and PhD)

Wildlife Science (BS)

A list of degree requirements, emphases, and specializations can be found in the catalog section for each department. For a description of the Master of Natural Resources (MNR) professional degree, see page 278.

**Interdisciplinary Programs.** Many of the degree programs listed above are interdisciplinary to some extent. However, the Conservation and Restoration Ecology, Environmental Studies, and Watershed and Earth Systems programs offer students the opportunity to develop broad interdisciplinary programs to meet their interests. Conservation and Restoration Ecology and Watershed and Earth Systems build on a strong science base; Environmental Studies has a greater emphasis on management and policy.

**Minors in Natural Resources.** The college offers minors in the following areas:

**Environmental Studies**

**Fisheries Science**

**Geographic Information Science**

**Geography/Geography Teaching**

**Recreation Resources**

**Watershed Science**

Requirements for the minors are found in the appropriate departmental sections of this catalog. Students should also consult a faculty advisor for the minor.

## Objectives

The College of Natural Resources provides programs of study and professional training in the use and management of natural resources and the environment. These programs deal with renewable land and water resources and the management of these resources and their ecosystems. Forests, rangelands, wildlife, fisheries, watersheds, and recreation resources comprise the natural resources and environmental areas in which the college has developed professional competence. The college's expertise in geography provides a link between the management of these resources and their value to our society and other cultures.

The College of Natural Resources programs and facilities provide exceptional opportunities for field experience. Forests and rangelands comprise more than 90 percent of the total Utah land area. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest and other areas of natural lands close to the USU campus provide unlimited study projects and opportunities for demonstration. Yellowstone and other national parks are within one day's driving distance.

**Career Opportunities.** The curricula of the college prepare men and women for positions with federal or state agencies, private-sector work in natural resources management and administration, and positions in education.

**Summer Employment/Work Experience.** Students are strongly encouraged to seek summer employment with faculty research projects or natural resource agencies to gain practical work experience and help refine career goals. Students should check with the College of Natural Resources Academic Service Center in early January regarding summer employment opportunities.

## Undergraduate Programs

### Academic Policies

**Admission.** Freshmen accepted in good standing by the University are eligible for admission to the College of Natural Resources. Transfer students need a cumulative 2.5 GPA for admission to College of Natural Resources majors. Departments may impose additional requirements; refer to departmental sections for information.

Students will make more satisfactory progress in natural resources majors if they have had two years of high school algebra; have taken coursework in chemistry, physics, and biology; and have obtained basic computer skills. Four years of English are

also desirable. Prospective students should realize that natural resources fields are highly technical professions, requiring not just field ability, but also high aptitude for scholarship. Success is also correlated with an ability to work well with people.

**Natural Resources—Undecided.** Students who have not yet decided on a specific natural resources major may be admitted to the college as “undecided.” Many of the courses taken during the freshman year are common to all natural resources majors; however, students are encouraged to select a major as soon as possible. Students in the undecided category should meet with the college academic advisors for assistance in planning their educational program and selecting a major.

**Changes in Graduation Requirements.** Students who complete a baccalaureate degree within seven years of enrollment at USU can qualify for graduation by meeting (1) the General Education/University Studies requirements in effect when they initially enrolled at USU (or any revision of the University Studies requirements that has been in effect within seven years of their graduation) **and** (2) the major requirements in effect when they officially declared their major (or any revision of the major requirements that has been in effect within seven years of their graduation).

Students who have not completed the baccalaureate requirements within seven years of their initial enrollment at USU must have their General Education/University Studies and major requirements evaluated and approved by their department head and dean.

**Academic Responsibility.** The departments publish current major requirement sheets each year. It is the student’s responsibility to know the current requirements and to consult with a faculty advisor in planning and completing his or her degree program.

**Graduation Requirements.** Students must satisfy all University, College of Natural Resources, and departmental major requirements for graduation. Students must complete a series of basic lower-division courses, providing the disciplinary foundation for the natural resource and environmental professions, before advancing to professional coursework; foundation course requirements vary among the departments of the college. Equivalents of the foundation courses can be taken at many two- and four-year colleges. Students intending to transfer to a College of Natural Resources major should consult with a faculty advisor before registering for foundation courses at another school. Some foundation and core courses can be used to satisfy University Studies requirements. College requirements also include a grade point average of 2.5 or higher for all courses taught by the College of Natural Resources. Refer to the appropriate sections of this catalog for further details on graduation requirements.

### *Professional Organizations*

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in professional organizations affiliated with their major. The College of Natural Resources has student chapters of the following professional societies:

**American Fisheries Society  
Society of American Foresters  
Society for Range Management  
The Wildlife Society**

### *Financial Aid*

**Scholarships.** A number of scholarships are available to students in the college. The S. J. and Jessie E. Quinney scholars program offers ten four-year, \$2,000 per year scholarships to entering and transfer undergraduate students in the College of Natural Resources. Interested high school seniors and transfer students are encouraged to write to the dean’s office regarding these scholarships.

There are also many \$250-\$2,500 per year scholarships for continuing students. For details, contact the dean’s office.

### *Research*

The College of Natural Resources maintains an extensive program of research through its academic departments and the affiliated Jack H. Berryman Institute, Center for Disturbance Ecology, USDA/APHIS Predator Behavior and Ecology Field Station, USDA Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Center, Utah Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and USU Ecology Center. Part-time employment opportunities are often available for undergraduates in college research programs.

## *Graduate Programs*

The college offers graduate study programs leading to the MA, MNR, MS, and PhD degrees. See the appropriate departmental sections for information on their graduate programs.

### *Financial Assistance*

**Assistantships.** Teaching or research assistantships are awarded through the departments. For further information, students should check with their department and major professor.

**Fellowships.** Fellowships and tuition waivers are awarded on a competitive basis. Incoming graduate students should apply through their major professor.

## *Course Descriptions*

Natural Resources (NR), page 451

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), page 447