

# FORESTRY

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

#### FIELDWORK

Forest Inventory  
Harvest Planning  
Reforestation  
Fire Fighting  
Forest Health Monitoring  
Forest Ecology  
Wildlife Management  
Ranger Services  
Recreational Design/Planning  
Urban and Community Forestry  
Environmental Conservation

### EMPLOYERS

Federal government agencies including:  
Forest Service  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Geologic Survey  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Corps of Engineers  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

State government including:  
Municipalities  
Parks and Reserves  
Extension Services  
Divisions of Forestry or Natural Resources  
Departments of Environmental Conservation

Private forestry consultants  
Universities

International:  
World Bank  
United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization  
Peace Corps

Non-governmental organizations, e.g. The Nature Conservancy  
Private tree care/landscaping companies  
Utility companies  
Consulting firms  
Pulp and paper manufacturers  
Timber companies

### STRATEGIES

Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends.  
Be prepared to work with minimal supervision, outdoors, in all types of weather conditions.  
Develop physical stamina, be able to tolerate extensive walking, and be willing to relocate to find employment.  
Learn to map and describe parcels of land using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).  
Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills.  
Participate in related clubs and organizations like The Society of American Foresters or The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council to build contacts and cultivate academic related interests.  
Gain knowledge of the social and cultural factors that affect forest management in areas of interest.  
Take courses in communications, horticulture, landscape architecture, entomology, pathology, urban affairs, and planning to increase marketability in urban forestry.  
Seek volunteer or paid experiences in forestry or conservation.  
Obtain Certified Forester credential through the Society of American Foresters.  
Earn forester certification/registration at the state level if applicable.  
Become familiar with the federal job application process for government employment.  
Seek management experience to advance e.g. junior forester to forest manager.  
Learn a foreign language to increase marketability for international employment.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### MANAGEMENT

Forest Management, e.g. Forest Thinning, Tree Planting, Restoration, Insect and Disease Management  
Outdoor Recreation  
Range Management  
Wildlife Habitat Management  
Fire Planning/Control  
Program Analysis  
Silviculture  
Agroforestry  
Urban Forestry  
Watershed Management

Federal government agencies including:  
Forest Service  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Corps of Engineers  
State government including:  
Parks  
Reserves  
Extension services  
Divisions of forestry  
Botanical/zoological gardens  
Historical sites  
Land management companies  
Land appraisers  
Livestock ranches  
Private consulting services  
Conservation agencies  
Private landowners

Obtain paid or volunteer experiences in recreational settings such as a national parks or forests.  
Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends.  
Develop strong communication skills including public speaking, group presentation, and mediation.  
Gain experience with technology and computer software relevant to the field of forestry, such as GIS and GPS.  
Take courses in outdoor recreation, park administration, or outdoor interpretation.  
Learn about the sports/leisure, logging/mining activities, and wildlife in regions of interest.  
Seek information about fiscal procedures, program design, government regulations, and industry trends.  
Join student organizations such as Society of American Foresters and Wildlife and Fisheries Society Student Chapter to network and cultivate academic interests.  
Be prepared to work with minimal supervision, outdoors, in all types of weather conditions.  
Develop physical stamina and be able to tolerate extensive walking.  
Prepare to relocate to find employment.  
Research the professional certification from The Society for Range Management.  
Learn about government hiring procedures and seek assistance from campus career centers.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### FOREST PRODUCTS (PAPER/WOOD) INDUSTRY

Forest Engineering  
Production/Quality Control  
Wood Science/Utilization  
Resource Procurement  
Forest Management  
Research (bio-based products)  
Sales  
Marketing  
Public Relations  
Consulting

Wood, wood products, pulp, and paper manufacturers, e.g. International Paper, Georgia Pacific  
Consumer goods producers, e.g. Kimberly-Clark  
Timber companies  
Research groups  
Consulting firms  
Private landowners

Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends.  
Participate in related clubs and organizations to build contacts and cultivate academic related interests.  
Hone communication and interpersonal skills.  
Acquire strong background in physical sciences such as physics or chemistry and wood science.  
Seek experience through internships or volunteer positions in the paper and wood products industry.  
Obtain dual degrees in civil engineering and forestry to enter as a forest engineer.  
Gain experience in sales, marketing, management, or administration to increase marketability in operations.  
Join the Society of Wood Science and Technology or the Forest Products Society to stay abreast of industry trends.  
Earn a graduate degree for advanced opportunities in research or management.

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### EDUCATION AND OTHER

Teaching  
Research  
Conservation Education  
Visitor Education  
Landowner Education  
Public Relations  
Environmental Policy/Law

Universities and colleges  
Local, state, and federal government agencies including:  
City, state, and national parks  
State extension services  
Nature centers  
Wildlife refuges  
Youth camps  
Environmental education centers  
Law firms

Earn a Ph.D. to teach at a university. Maintain a high GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations.  
Assist a professor with a research project or complete an independent study course.  
Participate in summer research programs.  
Publish research in a national journal, e.g. Forest Products Journal.  
Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy and conservation.  
Develop strong communication skills, particularly public speaking and group presentation skills.  
Join relevant campus organizations and seek leadership positions.  
Understand the resources and populace of an area of interest.

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

**EDUCATION AND OTHER CONTINUED**

Seek paid or volunteer experiences in a local park, nature camp, or educational center.  
Become familiar with the federal job application process for government employment.  
Earn a minor in a communications to increase marketability in that field.  
Plan to earn a law degree to advance in policy or environmental law.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- For entry-level positions, a bachelor's degree is sufficient. Some federal and private agency work, consulting positions, and many research positions require a graduate degree.
- Obtain volunteer, part-time, summer, or internship experiences in field of interest.
- Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Maintain up-to-date computer skills and knowledge of specialized tools used in fieldwork.
- Join a student organization or local/state/national forestry association to network and cultivate related academic interests.
- Schedule informational interviews or job shadowing opportunities to make contacts in government and industry and to learn more about specific fields.
- Stay current on news in forestry including policy issues, industry trends, and the job market by reading periodicals such as the *Journal of Forestry* or *Forestry Industries*.
- Develop a knowledge base in academic research related to forestry.
- Plan to relocate to national parks, forests, and cities with demand for foresters.
- Be prepared to work under minimal supervision. Many foresters advance from fieldwork to administrative positions.
- Contact the Society of American Foresters for updates to the national Certified Forester credential and other similar certifications.
- Additional forester certification can be obtained at the state level and varies by state.