Natural Resource Management

The natural resource management program uses an interdisciplinary approach to provide graduates with a foundational understanding of a broad range of natural resource systems. Students complete courses in the natural sciences to gain a better understanding of environmental systems and courses in the social sciences to better understand how decisions are made regarding the use or protection of those systems.

Using a mix of classroom and experiential learning, students develop knowledge and skills in a selected specialization area to manage human interactions with the natural world in parks and protected areas, natural resource organizations, or agriculture and food systems.

Upon graduation, students are prepared to work in a variety of positions including with federal, state or local natural resource management agencies, non profit organizations, or in the private sector in farming or for businesses servicing the farm community.

Pursuing Natural Resource Management at Ohio State

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Students interested in natural resource management should have a strong background in both written and verbal communication, science, and a strong desire to work with people of all ages. Creativity and the ability to think "outside the box" for programs, funding or policies is very helpful. Innovation is a key skill that employers seek out in graduates from this program.

Admitted students can directly enroll as majors in natural resource management within the School of Environment and Natural Resources. A student's first year will include several foundational courses in environment and natural resources as well as general education requirements such as mathematics, chemistry, biology, the humanities, etc.

The following foundational courses provide an initial exposure to an array of issues that impact natural resources, focusing on physical and natural sciences as well as the social sciences.

- Introduction to Environmental Science
- Society and Natural Resources
- Introduction to Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife
- Introduction to Soil Science

Specializations in Natural Resource Management

The **Parks and Recreation** specialization includes course work in communication, law and planning, and focused training in a particular aspect of recreation through courses in forestry, fisheries, wildlife; soil and water; visitor services; or zoo science and management.

The **Natural Resource Administration and Management** specialization includes course work in communication, law, planning, leadership and finance. Students may then choose to pursue a depth of understanding in a particular natural resource content area (forestry, fisheries, wildlife; soil and water; visitor services; or zoo science and management) or increase their breadth of knowledge by selecting courses across these areas.

Students in the **Sustainable Agriculture** specialization gain knowledge and practical experience in the development of sustainable agriculture. Students can further gain additional expertise in a particular area of sustainable agriculture, including production related skills, planning for sustainable agriculture and food systems, or business management.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Students in the School of Environment and Natural Resources enjoy a variety of opportunities to enrich their student experience beyond the classroom. Student organizations, such as the Parks and Recreation Society, give students hands-on experiences in the field and help them develop network connections with professionals.

Gaining real world experience through internships is critical to student success. Students gain valuable work experience at a variety of federal, state and private agencies and organizations in the field of forestry, fisheries and wildlife.

The School of Environment and Natural Resources Career Services Office offers students counseling to identify job opportunities and assistance preparing cover letters and resumes.

Students are also encouraged to study abroad. Several study tours offer programs focusing on aspects of the environment, natural resources or sustainability.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options.

For more information, check these websites:

School of Environment and Natural Resources: senr.osu.edu
College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences: cfaes.osu.edu/students

Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a BS in Environment and Natural Resources. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree with a major in natural resource management. More information is available at senr.osu.edu.

Freshmen Year	
Survey course	1
Introduction to Environmental Science	3
Natural Resources Data Analysis	3
Society and Natural Resources	3
Introduction to Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife	3
GE courses	19
Total hours	**32**

Sophomore Year	
Psychology of Environmental Problems	3
Management of Public Lands	3
Natural Resources specialization courses	11
Microeconomics	3
Soil Science	3
GE courses	6
Total hours	**29**

Junior Year	
Natural Resources Policy	3
Introduction to Spatial Info for Natural Resources	2
Natural Resources Administration and Mgmt	3
Environment and Natural Resources Economics	3
Natural Resources specialization courses	5
Natural Resources Management	3
Experiential Learning	2
GE courses	3
Free Electives	3
Total hours	**30**

Senior Year	
Natural Resources specialization courses	20
GE courses	6
Free electives	4
Total hours	**30**

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Environment and Natural Resources Scholars share an interest and passion for the environment and being outdoors. Students participate in service learning projects, educational trips, and seminars and workshops with leading environmental researchers. These students also have a unique study abroad experience—most recently they have traveled to Iceland to learn about the culture, environmental challenges and Ohio State research connections to this country. The Scholars live together in Morrill Tower.

The Environment and Natural Resources Honors program challenges high-ability students by providing a program in greater breadth and depth and provides special recognition and scholarships for outstanding scholastic achievement. Students are able to design their own study plan that guides their course selection and honors research. Freshmen with University Honors standing may be accepted directly as a candidate for the Environment and Natural Resources Honors program.

Career Prospects in Natural Resource Management

Students graduating from the natural resource management program will find themselves working as environmental educators, park administrators, park rangers and officers, conservation law officers, resources specialists and in sustainable agriculture.

We encourage students to go forward for advanced education in areas such as public administration or business administration to prepare for top level positions.

Graduates obtaining entry-level positions can expect typical salaries to be around $38,000 to $48,000 per year. Those seeking work in recreation law enforcement will find annual entry-level salaries ranging from $61,000 to $75,000.

Revised December 2013. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the natural resource management program, visit senr.osu.edu.

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