

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.

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.