

# 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  
Arborists  
Lay out logging roads or roads to lakes and recreational facilities  
Create the plans for building wilderness areas

### EMPLOYERS

Federal government:  
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:  
Municipalities  
Parks and reserves  
Extension services  
Divisions of forestry or natural resources  
Departments of environmental conservation  
Private forestry consultants  
Universities  
International:  
The World bank  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
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  
Botanical gardens  
Arboretums

### 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).  
Read publications such as Arborist News, Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, and City Trees to learn more about the field.  
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 market ability 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.  
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  
Production company land management  
Nation and State Park Management (e.g., oversee the operation of recreational areas, collect fees, issue permits, give talks to groups of campers, find lost hikers, and rescue climbers and skiers)

Federal government agencies:  
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  
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 form campus career centers.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>FOREST PRODUCTS (PAPER/WOOD) INDUSTRY</u></b></p> <p>Forest engineering Production/Quality control Wood science/utilization Resource procurement Forest management Research (e.g., bio-based products) Sales Marketing Public relations Consulting</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>

**EDUCATION AND OTHER**

<p>Teaching Research Conservation education Visitor education Landowner education Public relations Environmental policy/law</p>	<p>Universities and colleges Local, state, and federal government: Parks Extension services Nature centers Wildlife refuges Youth camps Environmental education centers Law firms</p>	<p>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.</p>
---	---	--

**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.
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in forestry or a related field is required to become a forester.
- Voluntary certification is offered by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and requirements include having completed a professional level (bachelor's degree or higher) education program and having at least five years of professional forestry experience.
- Obtain volunteer, part-time, summer, or internship experiences in field of interest.
- Foresters must be self-reliant and have a high degree of initiative; have an aptitude for science, curiosity, and a strong liking for the outdoors.
- 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.