

**Introduction:**

A major in one of the natural resources emphasizes the interaction among people, other living components in the natural world, natural resources and the environment. Study typically examines the conflict between development and sustainability. Such topics as population pressure, urban development, technology and economic growth are linked to major environmental issues including energy shortages, land-use disputes, endangered wildlife, water, air, and soil resources.

If you plan a career in natural resources, you'll develop a background in both the life and physical sciences. You'll also learn problem-solving strategies for environmental challenges such as the development of sustainable management systems for environmental quality. University of Wisconsin-Richland offers an array of courses needed to begin natural resources majors. These programs build upon knowledge in biological sciences, chemistry, physics and mathematics. In addition to these fields, you'll learn communication and interpersonal skills from courses in the humanities (speech and composition, for example) and social sciences (sociology, psychology, and history) during your freshman and sophomore years. Your junior and senior years will increasingly be devoted to specialized course work in your Natural Resources major.

**Career Opportunities:**

While employment opportunities in the biological sciences are expected to increase faster than the average for all other fields, this is not necessarily the case for the areas of natural resources. Typically, from 80-100% of the individuals who graduate with one of these majors either find a position in their area of academic expertise, or enter graduate school for further study.

Placement for individuals with a master's degree is better than for those holding bachelor's or doctoral degrees. Job opportunities increase with an individual's willingness to move to any area of the country.

Jobs are available in industry, consulting firms, state and federal agencies. Representative positions include: arborist, forester, naturalist, urban forester (forestry), wildlife manager, environmental manager (wildlife), environmental resource manager, researcher, environmental lobbyist (environmental studies), toxicologist, water chemist, watershed manager, limnologist, and fisheries biologist (water resources).

**Websites you may want to visit:**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	<a href="http://www.dnr.state.wi.us">http://www.dnr.state.wi.us</a>
Society for Range Management	<a href="http://cnrit.tamu.edu/srm">http://cnrit.tamu.edu/srm</a>
American Society for Agronomy	<a href="http://www.agronomy.org">http://www.agronomy.org</a>
American Water Works Association	<a href="http://www.awwa.org">http://www.awwa.org</a>

Explore career possibilities by visiting The Resource Center, located in the Student Services area of Melvill Hall. There you'll find career information, self-assessment videos and career assessment testing. Interactive computer programs are available to help you identify your work-related interests, skills and values. Knowing these characteristics can help you discover compatible occupations. The programs also provide information about educational requirements, potential salary, and employment outlooks for occupations in Wisconsin and nationwide.

Key contact people for natural resources related majors are:

Dr. Scott Walter, UW-Richland E-mail: [scott\\_walter@uwc.edu](mailto:scott_walter@uwc.edu)  
 Sue Kissinger, UW-Stevens Point E-mail: [skissing@uwsp.edu](mailto:skissing@uwsp.edu)

### Suggested course of study for a natural resources major:

Required courses for the various Natural Resources programs vary with the specific major you select. The sequence of courses outlined below is offered as a general guide only. You should work closely with your academic advisor in determining your individual course needs. Also, please see "Notes" below for details regarding program requirements.

#### First Year

##### Semester I

English*	3 credits
Math 110*	3 credits
Botany 130	5 credits
Biology 107 or Geology 169	3 - 4 credits

##### Semester II

English*	3 credits
Math 113 (Trigonometry)**	2 credits
Zoology 101	5 credits
Natural Resources 250	4 credits

#### Second Year

##### Semester III

Chemistry 125/145***	5 credits
Biology 250	4 credits
Math 211*	4 credits
Humanities/Fine Arts	3 credits

##### Semester IV

Chemistry 155	5 credits***
Philosophy 244	3 credits
Social Science	3 credits
Geology 251 (Water/Soil) ^	4 credits

\*Placement test in English & math determine course eligibility.

\*\*Math 113 required only for forestry majors.

\*\*\*See "Important Notes" below regarding chemistry requirement.

^Geology 251 is offered on an alternating year basis; as you do your course planning, be sure you factor in its availability to assure you complete the 4 core courses (Bio107/Glg 169, Nat 250, Bio 250, Glg 251) during your two years at UW-Richland; these core classes are required in all CNR programs at UW-Stevens Point and for the required summer camp.

Students completing the requirements for the Associate of Arts & Science Degree must include in their course of study an interdisciplinary studies component.

#### Important Notes:

- Participation in a required summer camp program between the sophomore and junior years is open only to students who have completed Bio 107 or Glg 169, Bio 250, Nat 250, and Glg 251. Students should make sure to complete all 4 core courses within the first two years at UW-Richland. An online application for Treehaven is available in March of your sophomore year; contact Sue Kissinger for application deadlines.
- Math 211 is required for Water Resources and Soil/Waste Resources and Forestry/Wildlife majors.
- Math 117 (Statistics) is required for majors in Forestry, Wildlife, Water Resources, and Soil & Waste Resources.
- Chemistry notes: Please check the major requirements that follow before you register for your chemistry classes: Forestry/Chemistry 125 or 145; Wildlife/Chemistry 145; Soil Science/Chemistry 145 & 155; Water Resources/Chemistry 145 & 155; Resource Management (general)/Chemistry 145 & 155; Resource Management (all other majors)/Chemistry 125 or both 145 & 155.
- Geography 120 or Geology 101 is required for all Resource Management majors.
- COM 103 Intro to Public Speaking is a general education requirement at UW-Stevens Point; the AA&S degree does not satisfy this requirement.
- Students transferring without the AA&S degree should also be aware of general education requirements at UW-Stevens Point . . . or any other transfer campus.

#### Environmental Studies Certificate Program at UW-Richland:

Also available at UW-Richland is a 17-credit ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE. This program offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of environmental issues, encompassing aspects of biological and physical science, natural resources, philosophy, and economics.

For more information on majors in the UW System, go to: <http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/majormania> .

For more information or assistance, contact:

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Office of Student Services  
University of Wisconsin - Richland  
1200 Highway 14 West  
Richland Center, WI 53581-1399

E-mail: [rlinfo@uwc.edu](mailto:rlinfo@uwc.edu)  
Web site: [richland.uwc.edu](http://richland.uwc.edu)  
Phone: (608) 647-6186, Ext. 264