

FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The mission of the B.S. program in Forest Ecosystem Management is to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and professional ethics for understanding and managing forest ecosystems and living as responsible members of society.

The Forest Ecosystem Management major provides for the education necessary for students to pursue professional careers in one of the following options:

1. Forest Biology
2. Forest Management
3. Community and Urban Forest Management
4. Watershed Management

These options also will prepare students for graduate studies in continuing professional education.

Forest Biology Option

This option provides a strong background in the biological and ecological aspects of contemporary forestry and establishes a sound foundation for professional employment and graduate-level study in forest and environmental sciences.

Forest Management Option

This option provides professional training in the management of forest lands consistent with the needs of ownership objectives. Employment opportunities include forest management positions with public agencies, industry, and private consulting.

Community and Urban Forest Management Option

This option helps prepare students to manage community trees and green spaces. It emphasizes technical expertise, communication abilities, and skills for working with diverse people. Employment opportunities include municipalities, arboricultural companies, utilities, and government agencies.

Watershed Management Option

This option focuses on water resources and the integrated management of natural resources with emphasis on water. Graduates qualify for federal employment as hydrologists and for water-related careers in municipal watershed management, state and local government, and environmental/engineering consulting.

What is Forest Ecosystem Management?

Professional foresters are challenged with the conservation, restoration, and sustainable provision of a wide range of forest ecosystem services, including timber and nontimber forest products, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, clean water, healthy soils, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities, and the aesthetics of both rural and urban landscapes. Foresters need specialized knowledge to manage for this wide range of ecosystem services. The Forest Ecosystem Management program

teaches students to identify, measure, and quantify a variety of forest ecosystem attributes; communicate effectively with diverse groups; analyze and interpret natural resources information in an ecological, economic, and social context; and integrate the relevant ecological, economic, and societal aspects of contemporary problems in natural resources management and use this understanding to develop, support, and implement effective solutions.

You Might Like this Program If...

- You enjoy working outdoors
- You have a concern for natural resources and an appreciation of nature
- You have an analytical mind to manage complex ecological systems and resolve environmental, economic, and social challenges
- You have an aptitude for innovation and strategic thinking