FORESTRY

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

FIELDWORK

Inventory Harvest Planning Reforestation

Firefighting

Forest Health Wildlife Management

Recreational Design/Planning

State and federal government agencies:

USDA Forest Service

Local, state, and national parks

Reserves

State extension services

State divisions of forestry

Peace Corps

Universities

Private tree care/landscaping companies

Utility companies

Consulting firms

Pulp and paper manufacturers

Timber companies

International:

World Bank

United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization

Non-governmental organizations, e.g. The Nature Conservancy

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.

Maintain up-to-date computer skills including desktop publishing and specialized tools used in fieldwork.

Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills.

Learn a foreign language to increase marketability for international employment.

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.

Seek 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.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Forest Engineering

Production

Wood Science/Utilization

Research

Sales

Marketing

Management

Public Relations

State and federal government agencies:

Corps of Engineers

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

National and state parks

State extension services

Resource agencies

Universities

Pulp and paper manufacturers

Timber companies

Research groups

Consulting firms

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.

Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills.

Acquire strong background in physical sciences such as physics or chemistry and wood science.

Obtain dual degrees in civil engineering and forestry to enter as a forest engineer.

Seek experience in sales, marketing, management, or administration to increase marketability in operations.

Earn a graduate degree for advanced opportunities in research or management.

Plan to earn Ph.D. for employment as a professor. Obtain paid or volunteer experiences in the wood

products industry.

Become familiar with the federal job application process for government employment.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

Teaching Research

Public Relations

Environmental Policy/Law

Local, state, and federal government agencies:

City, state, and national parks

State extension services

Public schools

Nature centers

Wildlife refuges

Youth camps

Environmental education centers

Universities

Vocational schools

Private schools

Timber companies

Pulp and paper manufacturers

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.

Earn a minor in journalism, broadcasting, media relations, and/or education to increase marketability.

Seek paid or volunteer experiences in a local park, nature camp, or educational center.

Obtain teacher certification to secure positions in public education.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION CONT.

Obtain advanced degree to teach at the post-secondary level.

Become familiar with the federal job application process for government employment.

Plan to earn law degree to advance in policy or environmental law.

MANAGEMENT

Resource Recreation Range/Wildland Management Forest Management

State and federal government agencies:

National and state parks

USDA Forest Service

Corps of Engineers

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Soil Conservation Service

Department of Defense

State extension services

Fish and Wildlife Service

Botanical/zoological gardens

Historical sites

Land management companies

Land appraisers

Livestock ranches

Private consulting services

Conservation agencies

Universities

Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends.

Develop strong communication skills including public speaking, group presentation, and mediation.

Maintain up-to-date computer skills including desktop publishing and specialized tools used in fieldwork.

Take courses in outdoor recreation, park administration, or outdoor interpretation.

Gain knowledge of the sports/leisure, logging/mining activities and wildlife of regions of interest.

Acquire strong knowledge of ecology, fiscal procedures, program design, government and social trends.

Join student organizations such as Society of American Foresters and Wildlife and Fisheries 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, and be willing to relocate to find employment.

Obtain professional certification from The Society for Range Management.

Obtain paid or volunteer experiences in a recreational setting such as a national park or forest.

Earn PhD. to obtain employment as a professor.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- For entry-level positions, a bachelor's degree is sufficient. Some federal and private agency work, consulting positions, and especially research positions require a graduate degree.
- Obtain volunteer, part-time, summer, internship, or co-op 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 club, a student professional association, or a local/state/national forestry association to network and cultivate related academic interests.
- Plan 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*.
- 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.
- Teacher certification is required for public education and varies by state.
- 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.