# FORESTRY

## What can I do with this major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIELDWORK</strong></td>
<td>State and federal government agencies:</td>
<td>Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Be prepared to work with minimal supervision, outdoors, in all types of weather conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest Planning</td>
<td>Local, state, and national parks</td>
<td>Develop physical stamina, be able to tolerate extensive walking, and be willing to relocate to find employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reforestation</td>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>Maintain up-to-date computer skills including desktop publishing and specialized tools used in fieldwork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighting</td>
<td>State extension services</td>
<td>Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Health</td>
<td>State divisions of forestry</td>
<td>Learn a foreign language to increase marketability for international employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Management</td>
<td>Peace Corps</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Design/Planning</td>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>Gain knowledge of the social and cultural factors that affect forest management in areas of interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private tree care/landscaping companies</td>
<td>Take courses in communications, horticulture, landscape architecture, entomology, pathology, urban affairs and planning to increase marketability in urban forestry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Utility companies</td>
<td>Seek volunteer or paid experiences in forestry or conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consulting firms</td>
<td>Obtain Certified Forester credential through the Society of American Foresters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulp and paper manufacturers</td>
<td>Seek forester certification/registration at the state level if applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timber companies</td>
<td>Become familiar with the federal job application process for government employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International:</td>
<td>Seek management experience to advance e.g. junior forester to forest manager.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Nations Food &amp; Agriculture Organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-governmental organizations, e.g. The Nature Conservancy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### AREAS

**FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY**
- Forest Engineering
- Production
- Wood Science/Utilization
- Research
- Sales
- Marketing
- Management
- Public Relations

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION**
- Teaching
- Research
- Public Relations
- Environmental Policy/Law

### EMPLOYERS

**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

**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

### STRATEGIES

**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.**

**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

| Resource Recreation | Range/Wildland Management | Forest Management |

### EMPLOYERS

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/zoo gardens
- Historical sites
- Land management companies
- Land appraisers
- Livestock ranches
- Private consulting services
- Conservation agencies
- Universities

### STRATEGIES

- 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.

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION CONT.**

- 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 management, 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.
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.