Forestry

Kentucky boasts many forested areas with famous reputations, such as Natural Bridge, Red River Gorge, Daniel Boone National Forest, and Robinson Forest. Robinson Forest is one of the largest research and educational forests in the eastern United States. It is managed by the Department of Forestry, and as a forestry student at the University of Kentucky all of its resources will be available to you as a unique outdoor laboratory.

The missions of the Department of Forestry are to identify and address the challenges and opportunities facing sustainable management of our renewable natural resources, including forests, soils, water, and wildlife. These missions involve three interrelated functions: research, extension, and education. The research goal of the department is to obtain basic and applied information leading to wise and effective management of our natural resources. Forestry extension seeks to inform landowners and the general public about forest stewardship. Forestry education prepares students for careers as forestry and natural resources professionals. The objectives of the required courses in the forestry curriculum are to educate and train students in the communication, managerial, scientific, processing, and administrative skills and principles related to the stewardship and utilization of renewable natural resources. Accomplishment of these objectives will ensure a continuing supply of entry-level professionals for Kentucky and the nation.

The undergraduate (B.S.) program leading to the professional degree in forestry is accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). SAF is the specialized accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation as the accrediting agency for forestry in the United States. Additionally, you may become certified by The Wildlife Society if you choose appropriate elective courses.

Career Opportunities

Forestry graduates are employed as professional foresters in private forest industries and organizations, consulting companies, and public agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and state, county, or urban forestry programs. Graduates are also qualified to be research technicians in government, university, and private laboratories, or may continue their studies in specialized graduate programs.

The inclusion in the curriculum of management and processing principles makes UK forestry graduates attractive to the forest products industry; graduates are often employed as technical specialists, managers, and marketing and wood procurement personnel.

Graduation Requirements

The four-year Bachelor of Science program in Forestry consists of 133 semester hours. Eight of these hours are earned while attending a Summer Camp between the third and fourth academic years. This eight-week Summer Camp at Robinson Forest provides practical, in-the-field training and is required of all forestry students. The camp involves overnight travel and takes place at a number of field locations including but not necessarily limited to Robinson Forest.

The curriculum consists of University Studies program, preprofessional, professional, and specialty support components. FOR 100, Introduction to Forestry, is required of all undergraduates during their first semester. This course provides a broad overview of forestry. Preprofessional, professional, and specialty support courses provide the skills and understanding to manage forest resources. Electives, chosen with the assistance of your advisor, strengthen your knowledge of basic principles in areas of special interest to you.
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FOR 360 Wood Technology and Utilization ............................................. 4
FOR 402 Forest Entomology ................................................................. 3
FOR 410 Forest Pathology ................................................................... 3
FOR 425 Timber Management ........................................................... 4
FOR 430 Forest Wildlife Management .................................................. 3
FOR 440 Forest Resources for Recreation .......................................... 3
FOR 460G Forest Watershed Management ......................................... 3
FOR 480 Integrated Forest Resource Management ........................... 5

Forestry Field Camp†
FOR 375 Taxonomy of Forest Vegetation ............................................ 1
FOR 376 Silvicultural Practices ............................................................. 2
FOR 377 Forest Surveying .................................................................. 1
FOR 378 Forest Mensuration ................................................................. 2
FOR 379 Harvest and Utilization of Wood ........................................... 2
†Attendance at Forestry Field Camp requires completion of the following courses:
FOR 200, FOR 205, FOR 219, FOR 300, FOR 340, FOR 350, FOR 360 (grade of
C or better required in FOR 200, FOR 205, and FOR 219).

Subtotal: Major Hours ................................................................. 59

Specialty Support Requirement
AEC 201 Introduction to Farm and Natural Resource Finance ........................................ 3

Subtotal: Specialty Support .......................................................... 3

Electives
Elective courses should be selected by the student to lead to the minimum
total of 133 hours required for graduation.

Subtotal: Electives ................................................................. minimum of 13

TOTAL HOURS: ...................................................................... 133