Come Learn Forestry at Oklahoma State University

Oklahoma State University in Stillwater provides an SAF-accredited Forest Ecology and Management undergraduate degree option within the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management (NREM). Oklahoma is 28 percent forested with forests types that include cypress swamps, southern pine, oak-hickory, and even pinon-juniper, which means our students have a chance to study a diversity of forest types.

Our Academic Program
The NREM department has 20 faculty, 260-270 undergraduate students, 50-60 graduate students and 8-10 post-doctoral associates. We offer five undergraduate options, including:

- Forestry Ecology and Management
- Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology
- Rangeland Ecology and Management
- Wildlife Ecology and Management
- Wildlife Biology/Pre-veterinary science.

Each option has a separate degree plan that includes more discipline-specific courses as students reach their junior and senior years. We provide a variety of campus-based and field-based courses related to forestry. We conduct forestry camps in southeastern Oklahoma and in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico to provide hands-on experience with forestry field measurements, timber cruising, harvesting, and other sustainable forest management practices. In addition, the forestry and rangeland options offer capstone courses in the senior year that link ecological, biological and economic factors in a real-world management scenario. The NREM department also offers department-led study abroad trips to Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Peru and Bolivia. These programs focus on the ecological and cultural aspects of these regions.

Our graduate program covers all five main topic areas, and most NREM graduate students and post-doctorates are funded by external research grants.

We Prepare Our Students for Their Careers
Our undergraduate degree programs prepare graduates with career options in federal and state forestry agencies, the forest industry, consulting, and non-governmental organizations. Because of the diverse nature of our department, our forestry students are exposed to faculty with expertise in the ecology and management of many different ecosystems, plant and wildlife species characteristics, wildlife habitat management, aquatic ecology and watershed hydrology, in addition to the traditional forestry curriculum. They also have many opportunities to interact with students in other natural resource disciplines that helps cultivate graduates with a broader understanding of ecology and management of a variety of ecosystems.

There are opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research projects in all of these disciplines. The NREM faculty research program offers a balanced mix of expertise in basic and applied research related to ecosystems and applied management research, and undergraduates are encouraged to work with graduate students and post-doctorates. This is aided with an excellent Extension staff in wildlife and rangeland ecology. We also have a robust summer internship program that provides opportunities for undergraduates to work with agencies and the private sector. This has resulted in many undergraduates being offered positions well before they graduate.