

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY, BS

Students in the wildlife ecology program learn about species ecology, habitat management, monitoring techniques, and conservation through courses that are based in the natural sciences. Wildlife ecologists study wild animals and their interactions with people. Working largely outdoors, they manage and conserve wildlife populations and their habitats, aiming to meet the complex needs of wildlife in a human-dominated world.

The Department of Wildlife Ecology was the first wildlife program in an American university. Students learn through a mix of classroom, laboratory, and field instruction. They have flexibility to customize their learning experience within one of two tracks: natural sciences and natural resources. Students can work toward substantively completing requirements for being recognized as an Associate Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society, a professional organization, if they choose to.

Wildlife ecology graduates work in public resource management agencies, educational institutions, private industry, and non-governmental organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation and The Nature Conservancy. Students in the wildlife ecology major are also well prepared to pursue advanced degrees in wildlife and related fields or veterinary medicine.

LEARN THROUGH HANDS-ON, REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES

Wildlife ecology students learn in many field and lab courses, including classes that focus on wildlife management, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. They can also take part in a summer field course in northern Wisconsin, numerous internships, and research opportunities.

BUILD COMMUNITY AND NETWORKS

Students can join the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Audubon Society, UW-Madison. Members of the Wildlife Society work with elementary school students, volunteer for numerous projects, and send a competitive team to the Quiz Bowl at the Wildlife Society annual meeting.

CUSTOMIZE A PATH OF STUDY

Students learn through a mix of classroom, laboratory, and field instruction. They have flexibility to customize their learning experience by selecting from a variety of courses in consultation with their advisor. Courses include options in the natural sciences, as well as coursework that meets educational requirements for certification as a wildlife biologist by The Wildlife Society.

MAKE A STRONG START

Students can take an introductory course that gives students an orientation to wildlife ecology and introduces them to the major and professions within the field of wildlife management and conservation.

GAIN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Wildlife ecology students are encouraged to participate in a study abroad experience. The program also offers an international class focused on the extinction of species (meeting the CALS International Comparisons Requirement), as well as a study abroad experience in Mexico. Students

can explore studying abroad as a Wildlife Ecology major utilizing the Wildlife Ecology Major Advising Page. Students work with their advisor and the CALS study abroad office to identify appropriate programs.

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN

Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	Must have fewer than 86 credits.
Other	Students who do not meet the requirements above or are not in good academic standing should schedule a meeting with CALS Dean on Call (https://go.wisc.edu/g85h79 (https://go.wisc.edu/g85h79/)) to discuss exceptions.

PROSPECTIVE UW-MADISON STUDENTS

All prospective UW-Madison students must apply through the Office of Admissions and Recruitment (<https://www.admissions.wisc.edu/>).

Students interested in this major should select it as the first choice major on their UW-Madison application. Admitted students who enroll at UW-Madison and attend Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have the option to declare this major at SOAR.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts	6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.
Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning	6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement (https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/)
Natural Science & Wellness	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework. • one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
Social & Behavioral Science	3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.
Total Credits	30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree	120 degree credits.
Residency	Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or • is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.
Quality of Work	Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.
Math	Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placing above MATH#160;96, or • successfully completing MATH#160;96, or • successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH#160;112, MATH#160;113, MATH#160;114, MATH#160;141, MATH#160;211, or MATH#160;221.
English Language	If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earning credit for ESL#160;118, or • achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.
Language	Complete one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or • one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES REQUIREMENTS

CALS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Cumulative Credits • Students must earn 120 degree credits.
• Students declared in Biological Systems Engineering BS must earn 125 degree credits.

Quality of Work Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 to remain in good standing and be eligible for graduation.

Residency Students must complete 30 degree credits in residence at UW-Madison after earning 86 credits toward their undergraduate degree.

In addition to the university's general requirements, all undergraduate students in CALS must satisfy a set of college and major requirements. Courses may not double count within university requirements, CALS college requirements, or major requirements. A course may count toward university requirements and a college and/or a major requirement; similarly, a course counted toward college requirements may also be used to satisfy a university and/or a major requirement.

CALS COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

CALS First-Year Seminar 1 credit. See the full list of eligible courses below or use this link: <https://go.wisc.edu/calsfirstyearseminars> (<https://go.wisc.edu/calsfirstyearseminars/>)

Ethnic Studies 3 credits with the Ethnic Studies designation.

Communication A Complete either:

- 1 course with the Communication A designation, or
- satisfaction of Communication A based on UW Placement Test.

Quantitative Reasoning A Complete either:

- 1 course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation, or
- satisfaction of Quantitative Reasoning A based on UW Placement Test.

Introductory Chemistry Complete one:

- CHEM#160;103
- CHEM#160;108
- CHEM#160;109

CALS International Comparisons 3 credits. See the full list of eligible courses below or use this link: <https://go.wisc.edu/calsinternationalcomparisons> (<https://go.wisc.edu/calsinternationalcomparisons/>)

Communication B 1 course with the Communication B designation.

Quantitative Reasoning B 1 course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation.

Biological Science 5 credits with the Biological Science designation.

Additional Science	3 credits with the Biological, Physical, or Natural Science designations.
Science Breadth	3 credits with the Biological, Physical, Natural, or Social Science designations.
Humanities	6 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation.
Social Sciences	3 credits with the Social Sciences designation.
Capstone Learning Experience	Each major articulates the required capstone learning experience.

CALS First-Year Seminars

Code	Title	Credits
AN SCI 135	Grand Challenges and Career Opportunities in Animal and Dairy Sciences	1
BIOCHEM 100	Biochemistry First-Year Seminar	1
COUN PSY 125	The Wisconsin Experience Seminar	1
F&W ECOL 101	Orientation to Wildlife Ecology	1
F&W ECOL 105	Environment, Pollutants, and You	3
GENETICS 155	Freshman Seminar in Genetics	1
INTEGSCI 100	Exploring Biology	2
INTEGSCI 140	Exploring Service in STEM	1
INTER-AG 155	Issues in Agriculture, Environment, and Life Sciences	1
LSC 155	First-Year Seminar in Science Communication	1
MICROBIO 150	Microbiomes and Microbiology - First-Year Seminar	1
PLANTSCI/ AGROECOL 100	First-Year Seminar in Agroecology and Plant Science	1
PL PATH 155	Food Frontlines: Security, Sustainability, and Survival	1
SOIL SCI 155	First-year Seminar in Soil and Environmental Sciences	1

Learning Community/Student Group Courses

The following learning community/student group courses are approved as CALS First-Year Seminars.

COUN PSY 117	PEOPLE First Year Seminar	1
INTEGSCI 110	BioHouse Seminar: Biology for the 21st Century	1
INTER-AG 117	GreenHouse Roots Seminar	1
INTER-AG 140	CALS QuickStart: Foundations	1
INTER-AG 175	WISE Seminar	1

CALS International Comparisons

Code	Title	Credits
The 3 credit requirement may be fulfilled as either a stand-alone 3 credit course or as a set of courses as listed below.		
A A E/ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy	4
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy	3
A A E/ NUTR SCI 350	World Hunger and Malnutrition	3

A A E 352	Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy (approved for enrollments Summer 2021 and later)	4
A A E/INTL ST 373	Globalization, Poverty and Development	3
A A E/INTL ST 374	The Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy	3
A A E/ECON 473	Economic Growth and Development in Southeast Asia	3
A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	3
A A E/ECON/INTL BUS 462	Latin American Economic Development	3
A A E/ECON 477	Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa	3
AGROECOL 377	Global Food Production and Health	3
AN SCI/DY SCI 370	Livestock Production and Health in Agricultural Development	3
ASIAN/HISTORY/ POLI SCI 255	Introduction to East Asian Civilizations (approved for enrollments Summer 2021 and later)	3-4
C&E SOC/SOC 341	Labor in Global Food Systems (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
C&E SOC/ENVIR ST/ SOC 540	Sociology of International Development, Environment, and Sustainability	3
CSCS 500	Global Health and Communities: From Research to Praxis	3
DY SCI 471	Food Production Systems and Sustainability	3
ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 201	Insects and Human Culture-a Survey Course in Entomology	3
ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 205	Our Planet, Our Health (approved for enrollments Fall 2026 and later)	3
ENTOM/ ZOOLOGY 371	Medical Entomology: Biology of Vector and Vector-borne Diseases	3
F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST 100	Forests of the World (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST/ ZOOLOGY 360	Extinction of Species	3
LSC 251	Science, Media and Society (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
PL PATH/ BOTANY 123	Plants, Parasites, and People	3
PL PATH 311	Global Food Security	3
PLANTSCI 370	World Vegetable Crops	3
The following study abroad courses fulfill the CALS International Comparisons requirement. Only the specific course numbers and titles listed, including Topics titles (in parentheses), are approved to meet the CALS International Comparisons requirement.		

BIOCHEM 307	Study Abroad: Introduction to Biological Sciences Research in Japan (approved for enrollments Fall 2026 and later)	3
NUTR SCI/INTER-AG 421	Global Health Field Experience (UW Mobile Clinics and Health Care in Uganda)	3
INTER-AG 321 & INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Study Abroad Pre-Departure Seminar and Global Health Field Experience (UW Global Health Community Health and Asset-Based Community Development in Sri Lanka)	3
INTER-AG 321 & INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Study Abroad Pre-Departure Seminar and Global Health Field Experience (UW Agriculture, Health and Nutrition in Uganda)	3
INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Global Health Field Experience (UW Health, Education and Tanzanian Culture)	3

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
Mathematics and Statistics		
Complete one of the following (or may be satisfied by placement exam):		5-6
MATH 112 & MATH 113	College Algebra and Trigonometry	
MATH 114	Precalculus	
Complete one of the following:		3
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
Chemistry		
Complete one of the following:		4-5
CHEM 103	General Chemistry I	
CHEM 108	Chemistry in Our World	
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	
Biology		
Complete one of the following options:		10
Option 1 (recommended):		
BIOLOGY/ BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 151 & BIOLOGY/ BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 152	Introductory Biology and Introductory Biology	
Option 2:		
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101 & ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 102 & BOTANY/ BIOLOGY 130	Animal Biology and Animal Biology Laboratory and General Botany	
Option 3:		

BIOCORE 383 & BIOCORE 384 & BIOCORE 485 & BIOCORE 486	Cellular Biology and Cellular Biology Laboratory and Principles of Physiology and Principles of Physiology Laboratory	
Core		
<i>Wildlife Ecology and Management</i>		
F&W ECOL 101	Orientation to Wildlife Ecology (Counts for CALS First Year Seminar)	1
F&W ECOL 306	Terrestrial Vertebrates: Life History and Ecology	4
F&W ECOL 318 or BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 460	Principles of Wildlife Ecology General Ecology	3
F&W ECOL 379	Principles of Wildlife Management	3
F&W ECOL 561	Wildlife Management Techniques	3
F&W ECOL 655	Animal Population Dynamics	3
<i>Plant Taxonomy</i>		
Complete one of the following:		3-4
BOTANY 400	Plant Systematics	
BOTANY 401	Vascular Flora of Wisconsin	
BOTANY/ F&W ECOL 402	Dendrology: Woody Plant Identification and Ecology	
<i>Evolution/Genetics</i>		
Complete one of the following:		3-5
ZOOLOGY/ ANTHRO/ BOTANY 410	Evolutionary Biology	
GENETICS 466	Principles of Genetics	
BIOCORE 381 & BIOCORE 382	Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics and Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics Laboratory	
<i>Vertebrate Taxonomy and Natural History</i>		
Complete one of the following:		5-6
ZOOLOGY/ F&W ECOL 520 & ZOOLOGY/ F&W ECOL 521	Ornithology and Birds of Southern Wisconsin	
ZOOLOGY/ ENVIR ST 510 & ZOOLOGY/ ENVIR ST 511	Ecology of Fishes and Ecology of Fishes Lab	
Major Electives		
Complete 15 credits from across at least 3 different categories (see course list below):		15
Physical Science		
Wildlife Resources and Technical Skills		
Anatomy/Physiology/Disease		
Conservation		
Forestry/Botany		
Ecosystem Ecology		
Policy, Administration, and Law		
Social Aspects of Natural Resources Management		
Capstone		

Complete one of the following:	3
F&W ECOL 577 Complexity and Conservation of White-tailed Deer	
F&W ECOL 595 Wildlife Research Capstone	

Total Credits 68-74

MAJOR ELECTIVES

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Physical Science</i>		
CHEM 104	General Chemistry II	5
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	5
PHYSICS 103	General Physics	4
PHYSICS 104	General Physics	4
PHYSICS 201	General Physics	5
PHYSICS 207	General Physics	5
PHYSICS 208	General Physics	5
GEOSCI 202	Introduction to Geologic Structures	4
GEOSCI 204	Geologic Evolution of the Earth	4
SOIL SCI 301	General Soil Science	3
<i>Wildlife Resources and Technical Skills</i>		
ENVIR ST/ SOIL SCI 575	Assessment of Environmental Impact	3
F&W ECOL 210	Forest Resources Practicum	3
F&W ECOL 395	Data and GIS Tools for Ecology	3
F&W ECOL 420	Regulated Trapping in Wildlife Management and Conservation	1
F&W ECOL 422	Hunting for Conservation	1
F&W ECOL 424	Wildlife Ecology Summer Field Practicum	2
F&W ECOL 458	Environmental Data Science	3
GEOG/ENVIR ST/ G L E/GEOSCI/ LAND ARC 371	Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing	3
GEOG/CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST 377	An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST 581	Prescribed Fire: Ecology and Implementation	3
LAND ARC 668	Restoration Ecology	3
ZOOLOGY 405	Introduction to Museum Studies in the Natural Sciences	2-3
<i>Anatomy/Physiology/Disease</i>		
ANAT&PHY 335	Physiology	5
AN SCI/DY SCI 373	Animal Physiology	3
F&W ECOL/ SURG SCI 548	Diseases of Wildlife	3
ENTOM/M M & I/ PATH-BIO/ ZOOLOGY 350	Parasitology	3
ZOOLOGY 430	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates	5
ZOOLOGY 611	Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology	3
<i>Conservation</i>		
ANTHRO 668	Primate Conservation	3

F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST/ ZOOLOGY 360	Extinction of Species (Meets CALS International Comparisons Requirement)	3
F&W ECOL/ BOTANY/ENVIR ST/ ZOOLOGY 516	Conservation Biology	3
F&W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 660	Climate Change Ecology	3
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 339	Conservation and Climate Change - Local to International Strategies	4
<i>Forestry/Botany</i>		
BOTANY 455	The Vegetation of Wisconsin	4
F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST 100	Forests of the World (Meets CALS International Comparisons Requirement)	3
F&W ECOL 300	Forest Measurements	4
F&W ECOL 305	Forest Operations	2
F&W ECOL 410	Silviculture: Applied Forest Ecology	3-4
F&W ECOL 448	Disturbance Ecology	3
F&W ECOL 449	Disturbance Ecology Lab (I): Herbivores and Fire	1
F&W ECOL 450	Disturbance Ecology Lab (II): Forest Pathogens	1
F&W ECOL 550	Forest Ecology	3
F&W ECOL 551	Forest Ecology Lab	1
<i>Ecosystem Ecology</i>		
AGROECOL 370	Grassland Ecology	3
LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST 361	Wetlands Ecology	3
ZOOLOGY 304	Marine Biology	2
ZOOLOGY/ ENVIR ST 315	Limnology-Conservation of Aquatic Resources	2
ZOOLOGY 316	Laboratory for Limnology-Conservation of Aquatic Resources	2-3
<i>Policy, Administration, and Law</i>		
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 337	Nature, Power and Society	3
ENVIR ST/HISTORY/ LEGAL ST 430	Law and Environment: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	3
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 439	US Environmental Policy and Regulation	3-4
ENVIR ST/ ECON/POLI SCI/ URB R PL 449	Government and Natural Resources	3-4
F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST 515	Natural Resources Policy	3
<i>Social Aspects of Natural Resource Management</i>		
A A E/ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy	4
A A E/ECON/ ENVIR ST 343	Environmental Economics	3-4
AMER IND/ ENVIR ST 306	Indigenous Peoples and the Environment	3
AMER IND/ ENVIR ST 341	Indigenous Environmental Communicators	3

AMER IND/ ENVIR ST/ GEOG 345	Caring for Nature in Native North America	3
AMER IND/ GEOG 410	Critical Indigenous Ecological Knowledges	3
C&E SOC/ F&W ECOL/ SOC 248	Environment, Natural Resources, and Society	3
C&E SOC/SOC 541	Environmental Stewardship and Social Justice	3
ZOOLOGY 335	Human/Animal Relationships: Biological and Philosophical Issues	3

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Define and explain basic principles in biological sciences and major concepts in wildlife ecology including, population ecology, organismal biology, plant ecology/taxonomy, and genetics/evolution.
2. Explain and discuss principles of wildlife management including natural resource legislation, policy, and applications.
3. Explain and apply the scientific methods including designing and conducting experiments and testing hypotheses.
4. Explain and demonstrate techniques for collection of data in laboratory and field settings, keep accurate records, and analyze data to address hypotheses.
5. Demonstrate a style appropriate for communicating scientific results in written and oral form. Provide opportunity to develop these communication skills.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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The four-year plan is a tool to assist you and your advisor in planning your academic career. Use it along with your DARS report and Course Search & Enroll to determine your program of study. Your program of study will likely look different from this sample four-year plan. Consult with your advisor to determine the best path for you. Students must complete at least 120 total credits to be eligible for graduation.

SAMPLE WILDLIFE ECOLOGY FOUR-YEAR PLAN

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
F&W ECOL 101 (Counts for CALS First Year Seminar)	1 F&W ECOL 379	3
F&W ECOL 318	3 MATH 113	3
MATH 112	3 General Education	3
General Education	6 CHEM 103	4
	Elective	2
	13	15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
F&W ECOL 561	3 ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY/ BOTANY 152	5
ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY/ BOTANY 151	5 BOTANY 401	4
General Education	3 STAT 301 or 371	3
Electives	5 General Education	3
	16	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CALS International Comparisons Requirement	3 F&W ECOL 306	4
Evolution/Genetics Requirement	3 F&W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 520 & F&W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 521	6
Major Electives	6 Electives	5
Elective	4	
	16	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Major Electives	6 F&W ECOL 655	3
Electives	6 Major Elective	3
F&W ECOL 577 or 595	3 Electives	9
	15	15

Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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ADVISING

Students are assigned an academic advisor and a faculty advisor in the department. Professional academic advisors help students plan their coursework and identify opportunities to get involved in department and campus activities. Faculty advise students on career planning and challenge students to think critically.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Undergraduates in wildlife ecology prepare for a variety of careers. They can become wildlife biologists, habitat restoration technicians, attorneys, wildlife enforcement officers, researchers, and more. Students are also well prepared to pursue advanced degrees in wildlife and related fields, including veterinary medicine. Graduates of the program work for many organizations, such as state departments of natural resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Chicago Zoological Society, and The Nature Conservancy.

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE INTERNSHIPS

Many wildlife ecology students include internships and professional work experiences in their studies. Students are encouraged to talk to their advisor about internship possibilities. See the Internship & Job Resources (<https://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/internship-job-resources/>) page for more information.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Wildlife ecology undergraduates are encouraged to get involved in field- or lab-based research with a professor. In their research experiences, students gain skills in a variety of areas including measuring habitats, reviewing literature, identifying species, deploying wildlife cameras, and more.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Students can join the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Audubon Society, UW–Madison. Members of the Wildlife Society can work with elementary school students and volunteer for numerous projects.

COMPETITIVE TEAMS

Wildlife ecology undergraduates can join a team that competes at the Quiz Bowl at the Wildlife Society annual meeting.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Wildlife ecology students are encouraged to participate in a study abroad experience. The program offers an experience in Mexico focused on wildlife ecology, as well as an international course focused on the extinction of species that meets the CALS International Comparisons requirement. Students can find more information about study abroad on the CALS study abroad advising page (<https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/international-programs/study-abroad-advising/>).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society organizes several volunteer activities, including spring and summer frog surveys, summer fawn searches, and roadside clean-up. Students also have opportunities to work with elementary school students and give presentations about wildlife.

On campus, the Morgridge Center for Public Service (<https://morgridge.wisc.edu/>) provides resources to help students connect with volunteer opportunities based on their interests and goals.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST CERTIFICATION

Work with your advisor to ensure you select courses that will meet the requirements of the Wildlife Biologist Certification through The Wildlife Society (TWS) (<https://wildlife.org/tws-certifications/>). Membership in TWS is required for certification. Certification is for 5 years and may

be renewed upon demonstration of adequate continual learning and professional development.

Curriculum

1. Wildlife management and wildlife biology (12 hours)
2. Ecology (3 hours)
3. Zoology (9 hours)
4. Botany (9 hours)
5. Physical sciences (9 hours)
6. Basic statistics (3 hours)
7. Quantitative sciences (6 hours)
8. Humanities and social sciences (9 hours)
9. Communications (12 hours)
10. Policy, administration, and law (6 hours)

Experience

1. A minimum 60 work months of full-time professional biologist experience gained within the ten (10) years prior to applying for certification (or up to 13 years if granted an extension).

Renewal

1. To renew certification, applicants must log a minimum of 80 contact hours related to participation in organized activities and mentorship within the five years prior to submission.

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Department scholarships are available to wildlife ecology students and fellowships are available to support research work with a professor. Students across the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences receive more than \$1.25 million in scholarships annually. Learn more about college scholarships here (<https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/financing-your-education/cals-scholarships/>).