

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY, B.S.

Wildlife ecologists apply science to manage and conserve wildlife populations and their habitats. The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology trains wildlife ecologists and managers to meet the complex needs of wildlife in a human-dominated world. Students receive training in species ecology, physiology and habitat management, techniques of monitoring species, and conservation, through a curriculum solidly grounded in the natural sciences. Beyond a core of basic science and wildlife coursework, students have flexibility to customize their learning experience within one of two tracks: natural sciences and natural resources. The natural sciences track includes coursework that will qualify a student for certification as a wildlife biologist by The Wildlife Society.

Students learn through a mix of classroom, laboratory, and field instruction that emphasize independent thinking and problem-solving. Students make frequent visits to the field to develop and hone their skills, essential for future jobs or graduate work. There is intense competition for career openings in the wildlife field. Most opportunities are with state and federal agencies, but options also exist with private conservation groups and educational institutions. To be most competitive for limited job opportunities, students should pursue a master's degree.