

# FORESTRY

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

#### FIELDWORK

Inventory  
Harvest Planning  
Reforestation  
Firefighting  
Forest Health  
Wildlife Management  
Recreational Design/Planning

### EMPLOYERS

State and federal government agencies:  
    USDA Forest Service  
    Local, state, and national parks  
    Reserves  
    State extension services  
    State divisions of forestry  
    Peace Corps  
Universities  
Private tree care/landscaping companies  
Utility companies  
Consulting firms  
Pulp and paper manufacturers  
Timber companies  
International:  
    World Bank  
    United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization  
Non-governmental organizations, e.g. The Nature Conservancy

### STRATEGIES

Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends. Be prepared to work with minimal supervision, outdoors, in all types of weather conditions. Develop physical stamina, be able to tolerate extensive walking, and be willing to relocate to find employment. Maintain up-to-date computer skills including desktop publishing and specialized tools used in fieldwork. Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills. Learn a foreign language to increase marketability for international employment. 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. Gain knowledge of the social and cultural factors that affect forest management in areas of interest. Take courses in communications, horticulture, landscape architecture, entomology, pathology, urban affairs and planning to increase marketability in urban forestry. Seek volunteer or paid experiences in forestry or conservation. Obtain Certified Forester credential through the Society of American Foresters. Seek forester certification/registration at the state level if applicable. Become familiar with the federal job application process for government employment. Seek management experience to advance e.g. junior forester to forest manager.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### **FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY**

Forest Engineering  
Production  
Wood Science/Utilization  
Research  
Sales  
Marketing  
Management  
Public Relations

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

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.

### **EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Teaching  
Research  
Public Relations  
Environmental Policy/Law

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

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**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION CONT.**

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.

**MANAGEMENT**

Resource Recreation  
Range/Wildland Management  
Forest Management

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

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 administration, 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.

# What can I do with this degree?

## FORESTRY

### Forestry Links:

[Careers in Agriculture](#)

[Forest and Conservation Technicians ONET](#)

[USDA Forest Service](#)

[United States Forest Service International Programs](#)

[National Park Service](#)

[United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service](#)

[US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

[National Resources Conservation Service](#)

[Bureau of Land Management](#)

[Society of American Foresters](#)

[Society for Range Management:](#)

[ForestryUSA](#)

[National Recreation and Park Association](#)

[National Association of Environmental Professionals](#)

[National Association of State Foresters](#)

[Center for International Forestry Research](#)

[Forest Products Society](#)

[American Forest and Products Association](#)

[International Society of Tropical Foresters](#)

[TreeLink](#)

[Tree Care Industry Association](#)

[Society of Wood Science and Technology](#)

[Conservation Scientists and Foresters Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

**AREA**  
**FIELDWORK**  
Inventory

Harvest Planning  
Reforestation  
Firefighting  
Forest Health  
Wildlife Management  
Recreational Design/Planning

### **EMPLOYERS**

State and federal government agencies: USDA Forest Service, Local, state, and national parks, Reserves, State extension services, State divisions of forestry, Peace Corps, Universities  
Private tree care/landscaping companies  
Utility companies  
Consulting firms  
Pulp and paper manufacturers  
Timber companies  
International: World Bank, United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization  
Non-governmental organizations, e.g. The Nature Conservancy

### **STRATEGIES**

Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends. Be prepared to work with minimal supervision, outdoors, in all types of weather conditions. Develop physical stamina, be able to tolerate extensive walking, and be willing to relocate to find employment. Maintain up-to-date computer skills including desktop publishing and specialized tools used in fieldwork. Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills. Learn a foreign language to increase marketability for international employment. 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. Gain knowledge of the social and cultural factors that affect forest management in areas of interest. Take courses in communications, horticulture, landscape architecture, entomology, pathology, urban affairs and planning to increase marketability in urban forestry. Seek volunteer or paid experiences in forestry or conservation. Obtain Certified Forester credential through the Society of American Foresters. Seek forester certification/registration at the state level if applicable. Become familiar with the federal job application process for government employment. Seek management experience to advance e.g. junior forester to forest manager.

### **AREA**

#### **FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY**

Forest Engineering  
Production  
Wood Science/Utilization  
Research  
Sales  
Marketing  
Management  
Public Relations

### **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

## **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.

## **AREA**

### **EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Teaching  
Research  
Public Relations  
Environmental Policy/Law

## **EMPLOYERS**

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 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. 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.

## **AREA**

### **MANAGEMENT**

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/zoological gardens

Historical sites

Land management companies

Land appraisers

Livestock ranches

Private consulting services

Conservation agencies

Universities

## **STRATEGIES**

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 administration, 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.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2006) UTK is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Employer