

Wildlife Ecology

Bachelor of Science Degree

Contact

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Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (biology and chemistry or physics)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- Academic electives (to equal at least 17 credits)

To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.

Did You Know?

- Students graduate with a resume, not just a degree.
- We have a job mentoring program and provide opportunities for hands-on learning.
- We have active student organizations in wildlife, fisheries and conservation.
- This major fulfills educational requirements to become a certified wildlife biologist recognized by The Wildlife Society or to become a certified fisheries biologist recognized by the American Fisheries Society.

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

Program Description

Students in our program complete a curriculum that includes a core series of wildlife ecology and management courses, along with classes in the basic sciences, natural resource management, mathematics and liberal arts, designed to provide the opportunity for certification as a wildlife biologist or fisheries biologist by The Wildlife Society or American Fisheries Society.

We place a high priority on field activities in our curriculum and use the variety of ecosystems in Maine for teaching and demonstration. While most students in our program aspire to be wildlife or fisheries biologists, ecologists, conservation biologists or natural resource managers, students also can pursue other individual interests by choosing elective courses in concentration areas such as environmental education, forestry and international conservation.

Specialized Information

Students can undertake wildlife research under the advising of a faculty member by participating in the University of Maine's Honors College or through independent study programs in our department. Also, the faculty strongly believes that field or professional experience enhances career development, and the department actively assists students in obtaining internships or other employment opportunities.

The Department of Wildlife Ecology has an active wildlife research program, which exposes students to the cutting edge of wildlife ecology and management and provides many opportunities for undergraduate student employment or experience with wildlife research.

Students have field opportunities throughout their curriculum. They are immersed in field studies of wildlife from their second week of classes. Our summer field course is unique among university wildlife programs; only eight wildlife programs nationwide offer extended field programs in wildlife. No other wildlife program at universities in New England provides the field training that we do at UMaine.

Associated Honor Societies and Student Organizations

Students are encouraged to join the student chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society and The Society of Conservation Biology. They also have opportunities to attend such annual professional conferences as the Northeast Student Wildlife Conclave. Travel experiences include introductory courses that take first-year students to off-campus sites to observe wildlife and their habitats, and learn about conservation and management issues; Ecology Laboratory, which involves afternoon and weekend laboratories, and trips to different ecosystems to collect data for laboratory reports; Wildlife Field Survey, in which students are in the field daily for two weeks; Wildlife Habitat Evaluation, in which students prepare research proposals on an original question; and Field Studies in Ecology, which surveys ecological and conservation questions in another country (usually Africa or Central or South America).

Representative Courses

WLE 100 Introduction to Wildlife Resources
WLE 150 Wildlife Field Trip
WLE 200/201 Ecology/Laboratory
WLE 220 Introduction to Statistical Ecology/Laboratory
WLE 250 Wildlife Field Survey

WLE 410 Wildlife Population Dynamics and Conservation
WLE 450 Wildlife-Habitat Relationships
WLE 455 Wildlife-Habitat Evaluation
WLE 470 Wildlife Policy and Administration

Career and Graduate Opportunities

Wildlife ecology students have continued on to graduate school or worked in the following positions: environmental consultant, Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Fisheries biologist, DMR Fisheries warden, high school science teacher, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) research assistant, IFW wildlife park superintendent, IFW warden, Maine Land Use Regulation commissioner, Penobscot Nation big game biologist, Soil and Water Conservation District watershed coordinator, UMaine Fisheries research assistant and USFWS biologist.

UMaine Graduate Programs

Master of Science in Wildlife Conservation
Master of Science in Wildlife Ecology
Doctor of Philosophy in Wildlife Ecology

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

