Major in Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism

Graduates possess technical skills in problem solving, systems planning, integrative team decision making, quantitative analysis, oral and verbal communications, and computer operations. Additionally, graduates are familiar with the historic evolution of environmental conservation and develop an appreciation for how their discipline contributes to environmental stewardship. Four concentrations are offered—Environmental Communication, Global Tourism, Natural Resource Tourism, and Parks and Protected Area Management.

Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate:

• Written and oral communication skills, with a focus on writing skills. Student writing and speaking will embody characteristics that represent attention to high quality communication skills, including substance of the issue addressed, organization of the paper or presentation, mechanics, or evidence
• Research and analytical skills. These skills will include the ability to generate a problem statement, associated research questions, data acquisition methodologies, synthesis of related information and the development of management implications and conclusions
• Planning skills. This will involve an ability to implement the planning process, including setting goals and objectives, acquiring relevant background information, synthesizing information, conceptualizing ideas, constructing alternative courses of action, making recommendations and considering ways of evaluating decisions

Potential Occupations

Graduates work in a variety of federal, state, and local resource management agencies, nonprofit environmental conservation and education organizations, and private commercial tourism and recreation enterprises. Competition can be intense for full time/permanent positions in highly attractive natural resource locations, although ample opportunities exist to gain experience through seasonal/temporary and volunteer work. Participation in a high quality, pre-approved internship is required for the degree. Additional cooperative education opportunities are highly recommended to enhance your practical training and development. Graduates who go on for advanced studies can attain more responsible positions with the possibility of rising to top professional levels.

The following are some of the career opportunities available to natural resource recreation and tourism majors with an environmental communication concentration: public involvement coordinator; interpretive writer, planner, consultant; outdoor education specialist; nature photographer; exhibit developer/evaluator; environmental/conservation education/visitor information specialist; interpretive ranger; naturalist; nature center manager; museum interpreter/educator; public relations/affairs specialist; park ranger; youth programming supervisor/manager. Examples of opportunities available to graduates in the global and natural resource tourism concentrations include, but are not limited to: retail relations manager; social media planner; convention sales coordinator; marketing/sales manager; conference/meeting/event planner; resort services director; member relations director; purchasing manager; camp and nature center director; tour information center manager; sustainable energy director. Opportunities for graduates in the parks and protected area management concentration include: park/backcountry/wilderness ranger; parks director/superintendent/manager; conservation officer; natural resource/wilderness specialist; open space/lands planner; camp counselor/administrator/manager; recreation manager; ecological restoration technician; forest recreation technician; sustainability planner.

Concentrations

• Environmental Communication Concentration
• Global Tourism Concentration
• Natural Resource Tourism Concentration
• Parks and Protected Area Management Concentration