

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

CONSERVATION

Resource/range management
Wildlife/fisheries biology
Education/interpretation

EMPLOYERS

State/Federal wildlife agencies
Wildlife refuges
Federal land management agencies
Environmental Protection Agency
National and international environmental/
conservation agencies
Zoos, aquariums and other collections of animals
Universities and colleges
Non-governmental organizations, e.g. Trout
Unlimited, Wild Turkey Foundation

STRATEGIES

Practice excellent communication skills.
Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort
being in close proximity with large and small
animals.
Advanced degrees are often required in these
positions, especially for research and teaching.
Gain extensive laboratory and research experience.
Supplement curriculum with additional science
courses in relevant areas (e.g. genetics, animal
behavior, microbiology)
Become familiar with federal job application procedure
for government work.
Gain work experience in area of interest through
internships, summer jobs, or part-time work

LAW ENFORCEMENT

State/federal wildlife and land management
including:
Fish and Wildlife Agency
National Park and Forest Services
Land Management Bureau
Department of Justice

Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort
being in close proximity with large and small
animals.
Be prepared to complete additional officer training as
prerequisite for entry-level jobs.
Seek internships or related summer jobs to gain
experience.
Attain experience with firearms, boat safety, and first
aid training.
Develop public speaking and conflict management
skills through coursework or experience.
Complete a minor in criminal justice.
Become familiar with federal job application procedure
for government work.
Be prepared to relocate to areas with abundant natural
resources.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

AQUACULTURE

Hatchery Operations Management
Aquarium Operations Management
Research
Quality Control

Private commercial fish farms
Shellfish operations
Government hatcheries
Public and private aquariums
Non-profit research facilities
Inspection organizations
Colleges and universities

Gain work experience through internships, co-ops, or summer or part-time work.
Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort being in water.
Practice good communication and problem solving skills.
Exercise close attention to detail.
Gain extensive laboratory and research experience for research positions.
Supplement coursework with business minor.

EDUCATION

Teaching
Non-classroom Education
Research

Universities and colleges
Public and private schools, K-12
Museums
Zoos
Nature centers and parks

Certification is required for K-12 schoolteachers, and Ph.D. is needed for universities and colleges.
Gain experience working with students through tutoring, interning, or volunteering.
Learn to work well with all types of people.
Develop excellent interpersonal and public speaking skills.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- As an undergraduate, seek laboratory experiences such as research projects, volunteering with professors, summer jobs, or internships.
- Participate in research programs sponsored by environmental and government organizations.
- Consider a certificate program or specialized master's program to qualify for research technician positions.
- Earn master's degree for greater variety and autonomy on the job. Earn a Ph.D. to work on high-level research projects, to direct research programs, to enter high levels of administration, and to teach at four-year post-secondary institutions. Postdoctoral fellowships may also be required.
- The wildlife and fisheries degree can be good preparation for a career in healthcare such as medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science, but professional degrees and licenses are also necessary to practice in these fields.
- Combine an undergraduate degree with a degree in law, business, education, information science, or other discipline to expand career opportunities. Become familiar with the specific entrance exam for graduate or professional schools in your area of interest.
- Learn to work independently and as part of a team.
- Join professional associations and community organizations, and read related journals to stay abreast of current issues in the field and to develop networking contacts.

GENERAL INFORMATION CONTINUED

- Secure strong relationships and personal recommendations from professors and/or employers.
- Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. The federal government is the largest employer of scientists.
- Gain experience with grant writing and fundraising techniques. Often research must be funded in this manner.