Forestry

WHY STUDY FORESTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE?

UMaine has the longest continuously accredited professional Forestry Program in the United States. Maine has more forests than the rest of New England combined, and Orono is surrounded by vast and varied woodlands. This provides unparalleled opportunities for research and field experience.

The Forestry Program at UMaine immerses our students in forest ecosystem sciences and management sciences while providing them with the strong communication and field skills they’ll need to succeed. Students graduate from our program knowing how to conserve and manage forest resources to meet society’s need for commodities, services and a healthy environment.

The program combines advanced technological approaches with a strong field orientation. Training in a forest setting begins the first semester with access to the university’s 1,270-acre Dwight B. Demeritt Forest adjacent to campus. In addition, the nearby Penobscot Experimental Forest and other properties owned and managed by the university provide nearly 13,000 acres of living laboratories for forestry education and research. Large areas of public and private, industrial and nonindustrial forestland near the university provide further opportunities.

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The B.S. in Forestry curriculum, accredited by the Society of American Foresters, includes courses in biology, soil science, measurements, mapping, inventory, protection, ecology, tree culture, economics, policy and administration. Our courses take an integrated approach to forest resource management, which allows our students to balance society’s demands for a healthy forest, wood-based products, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and water resources.

OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM

Our graduate students work closely with leading experts in their fields and conduct research in Maine’s North Woods, in state-of-the-art laboratories or at a number of locations around the world. Many of our graduate students are financially supported with graduate assistantships and paid tuition. Students may choose from a wide range of specialties, including forest ecology and management; silviculture; tree biology and physiology; forest health; and natural resources economics and policy.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN FORESTRY?

Forest resources are vital to the economy from the local to international scale. As a result, graduates of UMaine’s Forestry Program become part of a professional community that is visible, valued and important. We prepare our graduates for a wide range of careers, but most work in some aspect of forest resources management. Our foresters are employed by such federal agencies as the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

At the state level, our graduates manage public woodlands and advise owners of small and large private land holdings. They also work for nongovernmental conservation organizations. At the international level, graduates are in demand in the Peace Corps and others participate in international efforts to manage forest resources. A number of forestry graduates become independent consultants, serving mostly nonindustrial, private landowners — thousands of whom collectively own more than half of Maine’s timberland. In short, career opportunities are available locally, regionally, nationally, and globally for those in forestry.

OUR FACULTY

UMaine’s School of Forest Resources faculty are known as a source of objective scientific
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 73 countries. It currently enrolls 11,286 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. The University of Maine offers doctoral degrees in 35 fields, representing the humanities, sciences, engineering and education; master’s degrees in roughly 70 disciplines; 90 undergraduate majors and academic 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, visit umaine.edu.

explore

Bachelor of Science in Forestry
Minors in Forest Ecosystem Science Forest Products Forest Recreation Management
Master of Forestry
Master of Science in Forest Resources Ph.D. in Forest Resources

information. They have an international reputation for cutting-edge research innovation and are committed to educating the next generation of leaders on forest resources issues. In a typical year, our faculty receive $2.5 million in research grants and publish 40 papers in peer-reviewed journals. They also provide leadership regionally and nationally to professional organizations.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

First-year students participate in a week-long introductory adventure at Tanglewood 4-H Camp in Lincolnville, Maine. Upperclass students engage in a three-week field experience and training program that gives them the skills and experiences valued by potential employers. Undergraduates in forestry have an opportunity to study, interact, and conduct research and fieldwork with graduate students from around the world. Students work closely with faculty researchers who explore and extend the latest knowledge in forest science. Alumni have donated over $16 million in more than 60 named scholarship funds and faculty endowments. Students are encouraged to join the UMaine chapter of the Society of American Foresters and the Woodsmen’s Team. They also have opportunities to attend conferences and meetings of the Society of American Foresters. Special recognition includes the university chapter of the national forest resources honor society, Xi Sigma Pi. Summer work and internships are readily available for students. The professional experience and contacts gained through summer activities provide a real advantage when our graduates apply for jobs. An annual job’s fair focuses on internships and jobs for students.

HOW DO I APPLY?

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

The community in Nutting Hall is tight and the faculty are really accessible. The program provides a hands-on, outdoor experience.”

— Kelsey Troy, Class of 2010, Chester, N.H., Forestry Major