

2015-2016 Undergraduate Advising Packet  
School of Forestry  
Northern Arizona University



This advising packet contains important information regarding degree expectations. It is meant as a reference for you to help track your degree progress in addition to regular advising.

Susan Bierer  
Student Services Coordinator  
School of Forestry  
July 2015

## Your Forestry Degree Plan

**Welcome to Forestry at NAU.** The Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) is accredited by the Society of American Foresters. This advising packet covers requirements for your specific academic plan for Forestry. Keep in mind your overall degree includes your major requirements and other requirements set forth by the university. To receive a bachelor's degree at Northern Arizona University you must complete at least 120 units of credit that minimally includes a major, liberal study and diversity requirements, as well as junior-level writing and capstone requirements.

The Forestry degree is a four year plan consisting of 83 units within your major. An additional 15 - 18 units for a certificate of your choice is also required as part of the degree. It is your responsibility to take the required courses and perquisites in order for you to graduate, the advising process is designed to make sure you complete the correct prerequisites. Your Liberal Studies classes and any general electives will bring your total units of credit up to 120 to meet the NAU graduation requirements. These are discussed in more detail toward the end of this packet for your reference.

Successful progression through *any* degree program requires understanding your degree requirements. **It is extremely important that you take the math and sciences lab classes in the order outlined below in order to satisfy prerequisites for sophomore year level coursework.**

Academic advising is required by the university the first three semesters. Due to both the certificate and GPA requirements of the Forestry major, a short advising session **each semester** is strongly recommended through graduation to keep students on track to graduate.

### Your Advising Schedule:

- Freshman Year: at the Gateway Student Success Center (transition end of spring semester freshman year). Call Gateway 928-523-4772
- Sophomore through Senior Year: at the School of Forestry. Call Forestry 928-523-8956.

## Student Expectations

Ask Questions! Effective communication with the School of Forestry is the key to your successful progress through your bachelor degree.

Talk to your Professors! Make sure you ask questions about grades and class requirements if you are not sure how it works. Get to know your professors – they have a wealth of knowledge to share, and want you to succeed.

Check your email! The main form of contact between the Student Services Coordinator and students is **via email**. It is critically important to make sure you check email from the SSC's address for any updates, deadlines, or other information. Our Forestry website (nau.edu/forestry) is another great way to find out information about the program.

Graduation in four years is realistic when students follow the progression plan. However certain choices can sometimes prolong degree completion another year:

- GPA issues – a 2.75 GPA or higher required for entry into the professional program
- Study abroad
- Pursuing two certificates
- Changed major to Forestry from another program

As a Forestry major you will be advised and are expected to follow the progression plan by completing your math prerequisites your freshman year or through summer classes in order to stay on a four year track for graduation.

Along with your math requirements (Precalculus and Applied Statistics) you must progress with your lab sciences classes the first three semesters at NAU (BIO 181/L, BIO 182/L and CHM 130/L). Summer classes may be required to stay on track.

Three major things that will absolutely jeopardize your undergraduate career are:

- Not attending class
- Letting your grades slip – A few C's shouldn't hurt you, but you will need A's and B's to stay eligible for the 2.75 minimum GPA requirement
- Not understanding your degree requirements, especially the GPA requirements (2.75 pre-professional program) and the application process for the professional program (spring of your sophomore year)

## **What Students can expect from Advisors**

Individualized advising. Each appointment will provide a program of study for the next semester courses including mapping out both degree and certificate requirements, as well as liberal studies through your expected graduation date. This will ensure you are on track and have room in your schedule to plan for classes. Not all courses are offered every semester and some are only offered in the fall or spring. Planning ahead is critical.

Career guidance. Need help with a resume? Or if you just want to know more about how the federal application process works, make an appointment with the Student Services Coordinator.

Graduate School questions? Start the question process early if you think you might pursue graduate studies. Exploring what different programs want or expect can help you prepare as an undergraduate. Does the school you are thinking about want CHM 151/L instead of CHM 130/L?

You can also expect confidentiality with all questions or concerns you might have. It is understandable that students can feel overwhelmed with too much information.

- Keep all your copies of the advising notes from each appointment for reference.
- Take your own notes and ask questions during advising appointments if you are not sure you understand something.
- Educate yourself on what you need to do to move through your degree in a timely manner.
- Students are ultimately responsible for understanding degree and certificate requirements, and ensuring they are meeting their GPA requirements.

**Please come in for regular advising, and feel free to drop in or email with questions at any time. Advising appointments can be made at any time by emailing [ForstryStudentServices@nau.edu](mailto:ForstryStudentServices@nau.edu)**

## **The Forestry Progression Plan**

Every required course for the 2015-2016 BSF degree is listed in the forestry degree progression plan, which you can find by searching for “progression plans” by college on the NAU website, or click [here](#).

Students may transfer into the pre-professional forestry degree program from another college using courses that are equivalent to NAU course requirements. Transfer equivalency guides for Arizona colleges can be found online via [aztransfer.com](http://aztransfer.com).

*The progression plan course work is divided into two parts: **pre-professional and professional.***

- **Pre-professional course work must be completed with a grade of C or higher.**
- You must also have a minimum **GPA of 2.75** to progress to the professional program.
- Certificate and Liberal Studies classes taken during your pre-professional studies **do not count** toward the Pre-professional GPA calculations - *but you still need to maintain a C or higher in all Certificate coursework because it is part of your major program requirements. Any certificate class with a grade of D or F must be retaken.*
- AHI, CU or DIV Liberal Studies courses with a grade of “D” do not have to be retaken but can be if you would like to raise your NAU cumulative GPA.
- Application process\* for entry into professional program, described below.

## Pre-professional Program: 45 units

Fall (Freshman Year)	Spring
FOR 101 (3) must take <b>in person</b> as Forestry major	ENG 105 (4) prerequisite to FOR 215
MAT 125 (4) prerequisite to FOR 211 and ECO 280	BIO 182/L (4) prerequisite/co-requisite to FOR 213
BIO 181/L (4) prerequisite to FOR 213	CST 111 (3)
	STA 270 (3) prerequisite/co-requisite to FOR 211
	FOR 218 (1)
Fall (Sophomore Year)	Spring (*apply to professional program)
FOR 211 (3) may be taken summer before Sem A	FOR 213 (3)
FOR 220 (3) may be taken with Sem A	FOR 215 (2)
CHM 130/L (5) prerequisite to FOR 213	FOR 225 (2)
	ECO 280 (3)
Application to Professional Program is considered Spring semester of sophomore year. <b>GPA of 2.75, and grades C</b> or higher in all Pre-professional classes required to progress to Professional program. Summer classes may be taken to improve GPA prior to start of Professional Program.	

### Application to the Professional Program

There is an application process during the spring term of the sophomore year for the professional program. This process is where the student verifies all the coursework taken towards their pre-professional has been completed or is in progress with a grade of C or higher and with a minimum GPA of 2.75; ensures all official transcripts are turned in from any previous course work at a community college that need to be considered toward the professional program; and makes any plans for summer course work (FOR 211 or other) that may still be needed. This applications process is completed in conjunction with academic advising, and ideally is what each advising session during your first three semesters is working toward so you have a seamless transition into the professional program.

You can find the application here <http://nau.edu/CEFNS/Forestry/Degrees/BS/> under Applying to the School of Forestry

### **What happens if you do not meet the 2.75 GPA or grade of C in all classes?**

You must retake any classes with a grade of "D" or "F" for grade replacement **for those classes listed in the Forestry pre-professional progression plan table above.**

The better of the two grades will be used in GPA calculations towards your pre-professional GPA. You will only earn credit for the class once. For example if you retake a 3 unit class, you do not earn 6 units towards that class, only 3 units of credit.

## NAU Policies that affect retaking classes:

### College of Engineering, Forestry, and Natural Sciences-Forestry Major

All BSF majors are required to have a grade of “C” or higher in the following: FOR 101, FOR 211, FOR 213, FOR 215, FOR 218, FOR 220, FOR 225, ENG 105, MAT 125, STA 270, CHM 130, CHM 130L or CHM 151, CHM 151L, BIO 181, BIO 181L, BIO 182, BIO 182L, ECO 280 or ECO 284, CST 111.

- If you received a grade of “C” or better in any of the above courses, but have not met the required minimum preprofessional GPA requirement of 2.75, you may retake a course in which you earned a “C” **ONE** time for grade replacement.
- BSF majors can take up to 4 classes for grade replacement, in which a grade of “C” was earned, in order to meet the 2.75 GPA requirement.

### Professional Program: 38 units

Fall (Junior year) <b>Semester A</b>	Spring <b>Semester B</b>
FOR 313 (4) Forest Ecology I	FOR 323W (5) Forest Management I
FOR 314 (3) Forest Ecology II	FOR 324 (3) Forest Management II
FOR 315 (3) Silviculture I	FOR 325 (3) Forest Management III
FOR 319 (2) Forest Operations	

Fall (Senior year) <b>Semester C</b>	Spring <b>Semester D</b>
FOR 412 (3) Silviculture II	FOR 360 (3) Natural Resource Policy
FOR 413 (3) Forest Ecosystem Assessment	FOR 422 (3) Forest Planning
	FOR 423 C (3) Forestry Capstone

The professional program coursework is taken in sequential order from Semester A to Semester D. **All classes require a grade of C or higher to progress on to the next semester.** The professional program is a fall start only program with Semester A taught in the fall, Semester B in the spring, Semester C in the fall, and Semester D in the spring. In addition to your forestry degree coursework, you will be taking any certificate or liberal studies classes as needed required during your junior and senior year.

## Certificate Requirements

### Certificate or Individualized Focus Requirements

Complete an approved certificate plan or the Individualized Focus Area for the remaining 12-15 units. Certificates require a minimum of 9 units in 300- and 400-level courses. You must also earn a grade of "C" or better in each certificate or concentration area course (or "Pass" in Pass/Fail courses).

#### Approved Certificates:

[Fire Ecology and Management](#) (FEM)

[Forest Health and Ecological Restoration](#) (FHER)

[International Forestry and Conservation](#) (IFC)

[Human Dimensions of Forest Management](#) (HDFM)

[Wildlife Ecology and Management](#) (WEM)

#### Individualized Focus

You must develop a one-page written statement describing the purpose and scope of the proposed concentration area and have the statement approved by a faculty mentor and the Executive Director. You must also complete 12 units of FOR courses, including a minimum of 6 units of upper-division courses (300- or 400-level) that support the purpose and scope of the proposed concentration area topic as outlined in the written statement.

## Liberal Studies

Liberal Studies courses are designed to broaden students' knowledge outside your degree and expand your critical thinking, effective writing, scientific inquiry, and quantitative reasoning skills.

NAU requires every major to complete 35 units of Liberal Studies (LS) in order to graduate with a degree from NAU. There are three categories of LS: Foundation requirements, Distribution requirements, and Diversity requirements. Forestry specifically requires CST 111 and ECO 280 which satisfy your two required SPW courses. You are not required to take any other SPW courses for your degree.

#### Foundation requirements:

- English (4 units) – ENG 105 for all majors including Forestry

- Math (4 units) – MAT 125/Precalculus for Forestry (MAT 136/Calculus accepted)

**Distribution requirements:**

- Aesthetic & Humanistic Inquiry (AHI) i.e. Art, English, Philosophy courses
- Cultural Understanding (CU) i.e. Anthropology, Languages, History courses
- Social & Political Worlds (SPW) i.e. Criminal Justice, Political Science, Sociology courses  
**Forestry requires CST 111 and ECO 280 and they count toward your SPW requirements**
- Lab Science (any science lecture with a lab) i.e. Biology 181 and 182 with labs and Chemistry 130/L. CHM 151/L also accepted. **As a science major your BIO/L satisfy this requirement.**
- Science Applied Science (any science lecture) i.e. Anthropology, Astronomy, Chemistry.  
**Your STA 270 or CHM 130 lecture will satisfy this requirement for Forestry**

**Diversity requirements:**

- Global Diversity (3 units) Explores non-western cultures
- Ethnic Diversity (3 units) Explores US ethnic populations

Regular advising meetings will help you keep on track with your liberal study requirements. Within the Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) many LS are embedded into the degree's progression plan as described above. **In order to meet your LS requirements as a forestry major you will need to add 6 units of Aesthetic and Humanistic Inquiry, and 6 credits of Cultural Understanding, and 6 units of Diversity requirements.**

Diversity classes may be combined with your liberal studies classes (called *double dipping*) where one 3 unit class satisfies two liberal studies requirements. For example you may take a class that is an AHI/G and you will be satisfying one AHI requirement and your Global Diversity Requirement (two requirement) with one class. Be aware that while you may satisfy two requirements you are only earning 3 units for one class.

## University Requirements

To recap, in order to receive a bachelor's degree at Northern Arizona University, you must complete at least 120 units of credit that minimally includes a major, the liberal studies requirements, and university requirements as listed below.

All of Northern Arizona University's liberal studies, diversity, junior-level writing, and capstone requirements.

All requirements for your specific academic plan(s).

At least 30 units of upper-division courses, which may include transfer work.

At least 30 units of coursework taken through Northern Arizona University, of which at least 18 must be upper-division courses (300-level or above). This requirement is not met by credit-by-exam, retro-credits, transfer coursework, etc.

A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on all work attempted at Northern Arizona University.

Questions? Please contact Susan Bierer at 928-523-8956 or [Susan.Bierer@nau.edu](mailto:Susan.Bierer@nau.edu)