



FOR 408 FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES

Course title: FOR 408- Fieldwork Experience

Semester offered: Fall/Spring/Summer

Units: 1-3 units

Course recommendation: Ideally students should complete 2 semesters of forestry coursework prior to enrolling in FOR 408. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the cooperating faculty mentor.

Course description: The fieldwork experience or internship serves as practical application of classroom principles in a professional setting.

Course objectives:

- To obtain hands-on professional experience in forestry and natural resource management.
- To provide an opportunity to relate classroom theory to practical job duties within an agency or organization.
- To increase the student's skills and knowledge of the professions within natural resources management.
- To initiate, organize and complete an independent project related to natural resources management and that is of value to the host organization.
- To provide experience that will help the student evaluate him/herself in respect to their strengths, areas for improvement, and personal standards.
- To provide assistance to land management organizations.
- To develop and strengthen liaisons among the student, the organization and the University.

Course requirements:

- Fieldwork Experience Hours:
 - 160 hours (for 3 credits), 107 hours (for 2 credits), 53 hours (for 1 credit)
 - Must be completed with an organization related to the field of forestry and natural resources management. An organization may be a federal, state or local government entity, or a non-profit group.
 - The organization supervisor must be willing to supervise the student and provide a variety of experiences that will contribute to the student's growth and development. The position may be paid or unpaid.
 - **During the academic year, students are encouraged to work 10 hours per week for 16 weeks. During summer session, students may work full-time or part-time.**
- Self-directed, independent project or activity:
 - Must be related to forestry and natural resources management which benefits the host agency.

- The project may be assigned by the supervisor as part of their daily responsibilities or completed in addition to the assigned job duties on the student's own time. **In order to earn credit for field experience, this project must represent work above and beyond the normal duties of the position.**
- Examples of projects include:
 - Organizational reports, a research or policy analysis, development of a community or educational program, production of maps, grants or flyers, development of a customized database, or creation of a web site.
 - This list is not exclusive and students are encouraged to be creative and site specific.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to discuss this requirement with their supervisor in advance of the internship to solicit their input and advice on an appropriate project.

Grading:

FOR 408 is offered on a **Pass/Fail basis only**. Grading will be done by the faculty mentor on record for the class section. Grades are based on:

- Completion of the required hours
- Completion by the student of a mid-way evaluation
- Feedback from the organization supervisor through the mid-way and final evaluations
- Completion of an independent project related to management of natural resources
- Submission by the student of a 6-8 page final report based on the Summary Report Guidelines

Approval process:

1. **PRIOR** approval is required before students can sign up for the course.
2. To have a FOR 408 Fieldwork Experience approved, students must submit a **proposal form** and a **job description** to their chosen faculty mentor and Forestry Student Services Coordinator.
3. Once the proposal has been approved, the Forestry Student Services Coordinator will register you for the course.
4. The Intern/Supervisor Agreement must be completed and submitted once the fieldwork experience has been approved.