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.