

# MAJOR IN CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP, CONSERVATION AND SOCIETY CONCENTRATION

The Major in Conservation and Environmental Leadership aims to prepare students, as future leaders, to use social science to conserve biodiversity and promote meaningful and joyful relationships between people and nature. Through interdisciplinary learning that emphasizes applications of the social sciences to environmental conservation and natural resource management, students are trained to address complex challenges through collaboration, innovation, and leadership. Our major also prepares students to ensure that diverse voices and worldviews are included in the quest for a sustainable future. Students gain strong foundations in systems thinking, planning, communication, leadership, governance, collaboration, and justice, preparing them for careers that connect people, nature, and sustainability in nonprofit, government, business, and community settings.

The Conservation and Society Concentration prepares students with the skills and knowledge to conserve biodiversity through a nuanced understanding of the relationship between people and nature. Students learn to address conservation issues as part of broader social-ecological systems and apply social science to conservation planning, policy,

governance, communication and stakeholder engagement, justice, and collaborative problem-solving. This concentration is designed for students who want to work at the intersection of conservation, communities, and decision-making.

## Potential Occupations

Students are prepared for positions with community parks and natural resource departments, conservation non-governmental organizations, federal land management agencies, state wildlife and parks agencies, and environmental consulting firms. Early career roles may include park/protected area technician, community outreach coordinator, public involvement specialist, communication specialist, environmental/natural resource planner, and policy analyst. As graduates gain experience, career pathways may expand to positions such as conservation project manager, protected area manager, director of community engagement, or conservation social scientist.

## More Information

To learn more about the Conservation and Society Concentration, or to change to or declare this concentration, please click here (<https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/hdnr/undergraduate-study/undergraduate-program-advising/>) to schedule an individualized face-to-face or virtual meeting with an advisor.

## Requirements Effective Fall 2026

### Freshman

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                      | AUCC | Credits   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| CO 150                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | College Composition (GT-CO2)                         | 1A   | 3         |
| MATH 117                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | College Algebra in Context I (GT-MA1)                | 1B   | 1         |
| MATH 118                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | College Algebra in Context II (GT-MA1)               | 1B   | 1         |
| NRRT 193                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | New to the Major Seminar                             |      | 2         |
| NRRT 231                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Principles-Parks/Protected Area Management           |      | 3         |
| SPCM 200                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Public Speaking                                      |      | 3         |
| Select one from the following:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                      |      | 4         |
| BZ 110<br>& BZ 111                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Principles of Animal Biology (GT-SC2)                | 3A   |           |
| BZ 120                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Principles of Plant Biology (GT-SC1)                 | 3A   |           |
| Select one course from the following to fulfill the Biological and Physical Sciences requirement:                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                      |      | 3         |
| ATS 150                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Science of Global Climate Change (GT-SC2)            | 3A   |           |
| FW 104                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (GT-SC2)           | 3A   |           |
| GEOL 110                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Introduction to Geology-Parks and Monuments (GT-SC2) | 3A   |           |
| GR 204/WR 204                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Sustainable Watersheds                               | 3A   |           |
| NR 120A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Environmental Conservation (GT-SC2)                  | 3A   |           |
| NR 130                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Global Environmental Systems (GT-SC2)                | 3A   |           |
| 1C ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc</a> )                                                                         |                                                      | 1C   | 3         |
| Social and Behavioral Sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences</a> ) |                                                      | 3C   | 3         |
| Elective                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                      |      | 3         |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                      |      | <b>29</b> |

**Sophomore**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              |    |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| NRRT 262                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Principles of Environmental Communication    |    | 3         |
| NRRT 279                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Biodiversity and Conservation Social Science |    | 3         |
| STAT 201                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | General Statistics (GT-MA1)                  | 1B | 3         |
| Select one course from the following to fulfill the Natural Systems requirement:                                                                                                                                                                                |                                              |    | 3         |
| F 209                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Introduction to Forest and Rangeland Ecology |    |           |
| FW 260                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Principles of Wildlife Management            |    |           |
| GR 348                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Biogeography                                 |    |           |
| LAND 220/LIFE 220                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Fundamentals of Ecology                      | 3A |           |
| Select a minimum of 4 credits from the following to fulfill the Experiential Learning 1 requirement:                                                                                                                                                            |                                              |    | 4-5       |
| NR 220                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Natural Resource Ecology and Measurements    |    |           |
| NR 221                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Integrated NR Ecology and Management         |    |           |
| NRRT 487                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Internship                                   |    |           |
| NRRT 498                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Research                                     |    |           |
| Advanced Writing ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing</a> )                      |                                              | 2  | 3         |
| Arts and Humanities ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities</a> )                     |                                              | 3B | 6         |
| Historical Perspectives ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives</a> ) |                                              | 3D | 3         |
| Elective                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                              |    | 2-3       |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                              |    | <b>31</b> |

**Junior**

|                                                                                   |                                              |    |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| NR 320                                                                            | Natural Resources History and Policy         |    | 3         |
| NR 400                                                                            | Public Communication in Natural Resources    |    | 3         |
| NRRT 340                                                                          | Principles in Conservation Planning and Mgmt |    | 3         |
| NRRT 376                                                                          | Methods for Conservation Social Science      | 4A | 3         |
| NRRT 377                                                                          | Professional Preparation                     |    | 1         |
| NRRT 400                                                                          | Environmental Governance                     |    | 3         |
| Select one course from the following to fulfill the Spatial Thinking requirement: |                                              |    | 3-4       |
| GR 217                                                                            | Human-Environment Geographies (GT-SS2)       | 3C |           |
| GR 220                                                                            | Mapping, Cartography, and Spatial Thinking   |    |           |
| NR 319                                                                            | Introduction to Geospatial Science           |    |           |
| Select one course from the following:                                             |                                              |    | 3         |
| NRRT 368                                                                          | Biodiversity Conservation Culture/Business   |    |           |
| NRRT 402                                                                          | Cultural and Political Ecology               |    |           |
| NRRT 403                                                                          | Conservation for Climate Change Action       |    |           |
| Electives                                                                         |                                              |    | 6-7       |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                                              |                                              |    | <b>29</b> |

**Senior**

|                                                                                                      |                                            |       |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------|---|
| NR 300                                                                                               | Biological Diversity                       |       | 3 |
| NRRT 401                                                                                             | Collaborative Solutions to Conservation    |       | 3 |
| NRRT 412                                                                                             | Social Change for Conservation             |       | 3 |
| NRRT 475                                                                                             | Leadership for Conservation Action         | 4B,4C | 3 |
| Select one course not previously taken from the following:                                           |                                            |       | 3 |
| NRRT 368                                                                                             | Biodiversity Conservation Culture/Business |       |   |
| NRRT 402                                                                                             | Cultural and Political Ecology             |       |   |
| NRRT 403                                                                                             | Conservation for Climate Change Action     |       |   |
| Select a minimum of 5 credits from the following to fulfill the Experiential Learning 2 requirement: |                                            |       | 5 |
| NRRT 487                                                                                             | Internship                                 |       |   |

|                               |          |            |
|-------------------------------|----------|------------|
| NRRT 498                      | Research |            |
| Upper-division NRRT courses   |          | 6          |
| Electives <sup>1</sup>        |          | 5          |
| <b>Total Credits</b>          |          | <b>31</b>  |
| <b>Program Total Credits:</b> |          | <b>120</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Select enough elective credits to bring the program total to a minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 42 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).

## Major Completion Map

### Freshman

| Semester 1                     |                                            | Critical | Recommended | AUCC | Credits   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------|-----------|
| CO 150                         | College Composition (GT-CO2)               | X        |             | 1A   | 3         |
| MATH 117                       | College Algebra in Context I (GT-MA1)      | X        |             | 1B   | 1         |
| MATH 118                       | College Algebra in Context II (GT-MA1)     | X        |             | 1B   | 1         |
| NRRT 193                       | New to the Major Seminar                   | X        |             |      | 2         |
| NRRT 231                       | Principles-Parks/Protected Area Management | X        |             |      | 3         |
| Select one from the following: |                                            | X        |             |      | 4         |
| BZ 110 & BZ 111                | Principles of Animal Biology (GT-SC2)      |          |             | 3A   |           |
| BZ 120                         | Principles of Plant Biology (GT-SC1)       |          |             | 3A   |           |
| <b>Total Credits</b>           |                                            |          |             |      | <b>14</b> |

| Semester 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                      | Critical | Recommended | AUCC | Credits   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------|-----------|
| SPCM 200                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Public Speaking                                      | X        |             |      | 3         |
| Select one course from the following to fulfill the Biological and Physical Sciences requirement:                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                      | X        |             | 3A   | 3         |
| ATS 150                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Science of Global Climate Change (GT-SC2)            |          |             | 3A   |           |
| FW 104                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (GT-SC2)           |          |             | 3A   |           |
| GEOL 110                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Introduction to Geology-Parks and Monuments (GT-SC2) |          |             | 3A   |           |
| GR 204/WR 204                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Sustainable Watersheds                               |          |             | 3A   |           |
| NR 120A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Environmental Conservation (GT-SC2)                  |          |             | 3A   |           |
| NR 130                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Global Environmental Systems (GT-SC2)                |          |             | 3A   |           |
| 1C ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc</a> )                                                                         |                                                      | X        |             |      | 3         |
| Social and Behavioral Sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences</a> ) |                                                      |          | X           | 3C   | 3         |
| Elective                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                      |          | X           |      | 3         |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                      |          |             |      | <b>15</b> |

### Sophomore

| Semester 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                              | Critical | Recommended | AUCC | Credits |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------|---------|
| NRRT 262                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Principles of Environmental Communication    | X        |             |      | 3       |
| NRRT 279                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Biodiversity and Conservation Social Science | X        |             |      | 3       |
| Select one course from the following to fulfill the Natural Systems requirement:                                                                                                                                                            |                                              | X        |             |      | 3       |
| F 209                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Introduction to Forest and Rangeland Ecology |          |             |      |         |
| FW 260                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Principles of Wildlife Management            |          |             |      |         |
| GR 348                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Biogeography                                 |          |             |      |         |
| LAND 220/LIFE 220                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Fundamentals of Ecology                      |          |             | 3A   |         |
| Arts and Humanities ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities</a> ) |                                              |          | X           | 3B   | 3       |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              |          |             |       |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Historical Perspectives ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives</a> ) |                                              | X        | 3D          | 3     |         |
| Total Credits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              |          |             | 15    |         |
| Semester 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              | Critical | Recommended | AUCC  | Credits |
| STAT 201                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | General Statistics (GT-MA1)                  | X        |             | 1B    | 3       |
| Select a minimum of 4 credits from the following to fulfill the Experiential Learning 1 requirement:                                                                                                                                                            |                                              | X        |             |       | 4-5     |
| NR 220                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Natural Resource Ecology and Measurements    |          |             |       |         |
| NR 221                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Integrated NR Ecology and Management         |          |             |       |         |
| NRRT 487                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Internship                                   |          |             |       |         |
| NRRT 498                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Research                                     |          |             |       |         |
| Advanced Writing ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing</a> )                      |                                              |          | X           | 2     | 3       |
| Arts and Humanities ( <a href="https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities">https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities</a> )                     |                                              |          | X           | 3B    | 3       |
| Elective                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                              |          | X           |       | 2-3     |
| Total Credits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              |          |             | 16    |         |
| Junior                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                              |          |             |       |         |
| Semester 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              | Critical | Recommended | AUCC  | Credits |
| NR 320                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Natural Resources History and Policy         | X        |             |       | 3       |
| NR 400                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Public Communication in Natural Resources    | X        |             |       | 3       |
| NRRT 340                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Principles in Conservation Planning and Mgmt | X        |             |       | 3       |
| NRRT 400                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Environmental Governance                     |          |             |       | 3       |
| Select one course from the following:                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                              | X        |             |       | 3       |
| NRRT 368                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Biodiversity Conservation Culture/Business   |          |             |       |         |
| NRRT 402                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Cultural and Political Ecology               |          |             |       |         |
| NRRT 403                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Conservation for Climate Change Action       |          |             |       |         |
| Total Credits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              |          |             | 15    |         |
| Semester 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              | Critical | Recommended | AUCC  | Credits |
| NRRT 376                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Methods for Conservation Social Science      | X        |             | 4A    | 3       |
| NRRT 377                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Professional Preparation                     | X        |             |       | 1       |
| Select one course from the following list to fulfill the Spatial Thinking requirement:                                                                                                                                                                          |                                              | X        |             |       | 3-4     |
| GR 217                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Human-Environment Geographies (GT-SS2)       |          |             | 3C    |         |
| GR 220                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mapping, Cartography, and Spatial Thinking   |          |             |       |         |
| NR 319                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Introduction to Geospatial Science           |          |             |       |         |
| Elective                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                              |          | X           |       | 6-7     |
| Total Credits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              |          |             | 14    |         |
| Senior                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                              |          |             |       |         |
| Semester 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              | Critical | Recommended | AUCC  | Credits |
| NR 300                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Biological Diversity                         | X        |             |       | 3       |
| NRRT 401                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Collaborative Solutions to Conservation      | X        |             |       | 3       |
| Select one course not taken previously from the following:                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              | X        |             |       | 3       |
| NRRT 368                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Biodiversity Conservation Culture/Business   |          |             |       |         |
| NRRT 402                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Cultural and Political Ecology               |          |             |       |         |
| NRRT 403                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Conservation for Climate Change Action       |          |             |       |         |
| Upper-division NRRT courses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                              | X        |             |       | 6       |
| Total Credits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              |          |             | 15    |         |
| Semester 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              | Critical | Recommended | AUCC  | Credits |
| NRRT 412                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Social Change for Conservation               | X        |             |       | 3       |
| NRRT 475                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Leadership for Conservation Action           | X        |             | 4B,4C | 3       |
| Select a minimum of 5 credits from the following to fulfill the Experiential Learning 2 requirement:                                                                                                                                                            |                                              | X        |             |       | 5       |

|                                                                                                      |            |   |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---|-----|
| NRRT 487                                                                                             | Internship |   |     |
| NRRT 498                                                                                             | Research   |   |     |
| Elective                                                                                             |            | X | 5   |
| The benchmark courses for the 8th semester are the remaining courses in the entire program of study. |            | X |     |
| Total Credits                                                                                        |            |   | 16  |
| Program Total Credits:                                                                               |            |   | 120 |