

MAJOR IN CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP, SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT 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 Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Management Concentration prepares students with the skills and knowledge to improve human well-being and environmental stewardship through outdoor experiences. Students build skills in tourism, recreation,

and parks planning; environmental education; outdoor program design; communication and marketing; impact evaluation; and business fundamentals. This concentration is designed for students who want to create, manage, and improve outdoor experiences that benefit both people and nature.

Potential Occupations

Students are prepared for positions with municipal open space and recreation departments, public land management and parks agencies, outdoor recreation outfitters and enterprises, and outdoor education facilities. Early career roles may include park ranger, environmental educator, outdoor recreation guide, visitor engagement coordinator, outdoor recreation manager, tourism and recreation planner, marketing and communication specialist, and sustainability coordinator. With experience, graduates may advance into positions such as education director, supervising ranger, visitor bureau director, outdoor recreation business owner or manager, director of recreation operations, or sustainability manager.

More Information

To learn more about the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Management 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 & 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	
Select one course from the following to fulfill the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement:			3
ECON 101	Economics of Social Issues (GT-SS1)	3C	
ECON 202	Principles of Microeconomics (GT-SS1)	3C	
ECON 240/AREC 240	Economics of Environmental Sustainability (GT-SS1)	3C	
1C (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)			3

Elective			3
Total Credits			29
Sophomore			
NRRT 262	Principles of Environmental Communication		3
NRRT 270	Tourism and Recreation for People and Planet		3
NRRT 279	Biodiversity and Conservation Social Science		3
STAT 201	General Statistics (GT-MA1)	1B	3
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 (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing)		2	3
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		3B	6
Historical Perspectives (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)		3D	3
Elective			2-3
Total Credits			31
Junior			
NR 320	Natural Resources History and Policy		3
NR 400	Public Communication in Natural Resources		3
NRRT 372	Marketing Applications - Tourism Recreation	4A	3
NRRT 376	Methods for Conservation Social Science	4A	3
NRRT 377	Professional Preparation		1
Select one course from the following:			3
NRRT 271	Nature, Health and Well-Being		
NRRT 320	International Issues-Recreation and Tourism		
NRRT 404	Designing Nature-Based Programs for Impact		
Select one course from the following to fulfill the Social Sciences requirement:			3
ANTH 330/CLMT 330	Human Ecology		
ANTH 479/IE 479	International Development Theory and Practice		
ECON 346/AREC 346	Economics of Outdoor Recreation		
ESS 365	Global Climate Justice		
ETST 365	Global Environmental Justice Movements		
HIST 355	American Environmental History		
JTC 319	Science and Environmental Communication		
JTC 419	Food and Natural Resources Communication		
NR 425	Natural Resource Policy and Sustainability		
PHIL 345	Environmental Ethics		
POLS 361	U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy		
SOC 322	Environmental Justice		
SOC 460	Environmental and Natural Resource Sociology		
Select one course from the following to fulfill the Business requirement:			3
ACT 205	Fundamentals of Accounting		
BUS 205	Legal and Ethical Issues in Business		
BUS 210	Critical Perspectives of Workplace Culture	1C	
HEM 260	Introduction to Event Management		
MGT 305	Fundamentals of Management		
MGT 360	Social and Sustainable Venturing		

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		
Elective			3-4
Total Credits			29
Senior			
NRRT 401	Collaborative Solutions to Conservation		3
NRRT 442	Tourism Outdoor Recreation Planning		3
NRRT 475	Leadership for Conservation Action	4B,4C	3
Select one of the following courses not taken previously:			3
NRRT 271	Nature, Health and Well-Being		
NRRT 320	International Issues-Recreation and Tourism		
NRRT 404	Designing Nature-Based Programs for Impact		
Select one course from the following to fulfill the Experiential Learning 2 requirement:			5
NRRT 487	Internship		
NRRT 498	Research		
Upper-division NRRT courses			6
Electives ¹			8
Total Credits			31
Program Total Credits:			120

¹ 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	Principles of Animal Biology (GT-SC2)			3A	
& BZ 111					
BZ 120	Principles of Plant Biology (GT-SC1)			3A	
Total Credits					14

Semester 2		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
SPCM 200	Public Speaking	X			3
Select one course from the following list 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	
Select one course from the following to fulfill the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement:		X			3

ECON 101	Economics of Social Issues (GT-SS1)			3C	
ECON 202	Principles of Microeconomics (GT-SS1)			3C	
ECON 240/ AREC 240	Economics of Environmental Sustainability (GT-SS1)			3C	
1C (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)		X		1C	3
Elective			X		3
Total Credits					15
Sophomore					
Semester 3		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
NRRT 262	Principles of Environmental Communication	X			3
NRRT 270	Tourism and Recreation for People and Planet	X			3
NRRT 279	Biodiversity and Conservation Social Science	X			3
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)			X	3B	3
Historical Perspectives (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)			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 courses 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 (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing)			X	2	3
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)			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	X		3
NRRT 372	Marketing Applications - Tourism Recreation	X		4A	3
Select one course from the following:		X			3
NRRT 271	Nature, Health and Well-Being				
NRRT 320	International Issues-Recreation and Tourism				
NRRT 404	Designing Nature-Based Programs for Impact				
Select one course from the following to fulfill the Social Science requirement:			X		3
ANTH 330/ CLMT 330	Human Ecology				
ANTH 479/ IE 479	International Development Theory and Practice				
ECON 346/ AREC 346	Economics of Outdoor Recreation				
ESS 365	Global Climate Justice				
ETST 365	Global Environmental Justice Movements				
HIST 355	American Environmental History				
JTC 319	Science and Environmental Communication				
JTC 419	Food and Natural Resources Communication				
NR 425	Natural Resource Policy and Sustainability				

PHIL 345	Environmental Ethics				
POLS 361	U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy				
SOC 322	Environmental Justice				
SOC 460	Environmental and Natural Resource Sociology				
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 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				
Select one course from the following to fulfill the Business requirement:		X			3
ACT 205	Fundamentals of Accounting				
BUS 205	Legal and Ethical Issues in Business				
BUS 210	Critical Perspectives of Workplace Culture			1C	
HEM 260	Introduction to Event Management				
MGT 305	Fundamentals of Management				
MGT 360	Social and Sustainable Venturing				
Elective			X		3-4
Total Credits					14
Senior					
Semester 7		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
NRRT 401	Collaborative Solutions to Conservation	X			3
Select one course from the following:		X			3
NRRT 271	Nature, Health and Well-Being				
NRRT 320	International Issues-Recreation and Tourism				
NRRT 404	Designing Nature-Based Programs for Impact				
Upper-division NRRT courses		X			6
Elective			X		3
Total Credits					15
Semester 8		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
NRRT 442	Tourism Outdoor Recreation Planning	X			3
NRRT 475	Leadership for Conservation Action	X		4B,4C	3
Select one of the following courses 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