

FOREST RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree
101-106 credits

DEGREE AS AWARDED ON TRANSCRIPT

Associate of Applied Science, Forest Resources Technology

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Forest Resources Technology provides the education and practical skills needed to succeed as a technician in forestry and natural resource fields throughout the western U.S. The AAS degree program from COCC is accredited by the Society of American Foresters. Job opportunities exist in government agencies (both state and federal) as well as private industry (contractors, consultants and private companies). The U.S. Forest Service is the primary employer for graduates of this program.

Jobs in the forestry industry offer many opportunities for employment locally and nationally. Traditional forest technician positions are now often referred to as natural resource technicians. Technicians spend considerable time outdoors. Typical entry-level positions might include forest management activities such as evaluation of reforestation efforts, timber sale layout, tree measurements, forest damage assessment and numerous other activities that are required when managing a forest.

Additionally, entry-level natural resource technicians may perform noxious weed identification and eradication, plant and wildlife surveys, fire protection and suppression and stream monitoring and restoration. Natural resource technicians can work for state or federal government agencies and manage public property, or work for private industry and private landowners.

COCC's Forest Resources Technology program has the advantage of being located near several national forests. A majority of the courses within the program include outdoor lab opportunities, which provide hands-on experience and knowledge essential to being an effective natural resource technician. Additionally, students are able to take advantage of job opportunities working with local agencies to develop and implement land management plans in the capstone course at the end of their second year.

Students who are interested in gaining employment in wildland fire or are adding these courses to their Forest Resource Technology degree can accomplish both degrees within three years. Students seeking the Wildland Fire Science degree are typically advised to complete the Forest Resources Technology degree first and return for a third year to complete the Wildland Fire Science degree. The dual-degree option is the ideal approach for those students interested in both wildland fire fighting and forestry.

COST OF PROGRAM

In addition to standard tuition, student fees and textbooks, students should anticipate the following estimated program costs:

- Additional lab fees of approximately \$250
- Equipment costs ranging from \$665-\$915 (suggested equipment includes: hardhat, boots, vest, compass, GPS, tatum, plant press, hand lens, rain gear, field book)

PROGRAM PREPARATION AND PREREQUISITES

This program can be completed within two years provided the student is adequately prepared to take MTH 085 and WR 121 and coursework is initiated during Fall term. Students entering in Winter or Spring term and/or who require developmental writing or math courses, can complete the program within a three-year period. Students are expected to provide their own appropriate field clothing and tools. A list will be provided in FOR 100 Forestry Program Orientation.

MINIMUM GPA OR GRADE REQUIREMENTS

All courses must be completed with a "C" grade or better.

TRANSFER INFORMATION

This degree is designed for students planning to enter their chosen career upon graduation. As such, only selected credits are considered transferrable to public or private baccalaureate institutions. This will vary by institution. Institutions with which COCC has articulation agreements in Forest Resources Technology are Oregon State University and Oregon State University – Cascades.

Students planning to transfer to Humboldt State University, Oregon State University, or the University of Idaho to acquire a Bachelor of Science degree should meet with a COCC Forestry program advisor to discuss current transfer requirements. Many of the required undergraduate courses for the Bachelor of Science degrees can be taken at COCC and transferred accordingly.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The following is the course sequence required for students able to attend full time who intend to complete the degree in two years. Students are encouraged to meet with a faculty advisor in the Forestry program to discuss a two- or three-year educational plan. Students who have obtained a degree or completed coursework from another institution may be able to transfer some coursework to apply toward the AAS in Forest Resources Technology. A meeting with faculty or their advisor is strongly recommended.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

YEAR ONE

Fall term

FOR 100	Forestry Program Orientation	1
FOR 111	Forestry Perspectives	4
FOR 230A	Map, Compass and GPS	3
FOR 240A	Forest Ecology	3
FOR 241A	Field Dendrology	3
MTH 085	Technical Math I ¹	4

Winter term

CIS 120	Computer Concepts or Computer Competency Test ²	0-4
FOR 230B	Forest Surveying	3
FOR 235	Resource Measurements	4
FOR 271	Applied Forest Ecology	3
MTH 086	Technical Math II	4

Spring term

FOR 110	Wildland Fire Science I	2
FOR 126	Field Studies Pacific NW Forests	1
FOR 127	Plants of the Pacific Northwest	1
FOR 236	Aerial Photo	3
FOR 241B	Dendrology	3
FOR 272	Forest Entomology/Pathology	3
WR 121	Academic Composition ³	4

Summer term

FOR 180	Co-op Work Experience Forestry	3
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FOREST RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY *(continued)*

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YEAR TWO**Fall term**

FOR 210	Wildland Fire Science II	2
FOR 240B	Wildlife Ecology	3
FOR 273	Silviculture and Harvesting Processes	5
HHP 252A	Fitness/First Aid	3
SP 111	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3-4
or SP 115	Introduction to Intercultural Communication	
or SP 218	Interpersonal Communication	
or SP 219	Small Group Communication	

Winter term

FOR 211	Supervision and Leadership	3
FOR 237	Resource Sampling	4
Forest Resource elective ⁴		2
General Education Discipline Studies courses		4
GEOG 265	Geographic Information Systems	4

Spring term

FOR 208	Soils: Sustainable Ecosystems	4
FOR 215	Forest Resource Capstone	3
FOR 260	Conservation of Natural Resources	3
FW 218	Survey of Northwest Mammals	2
or FW 212	Survey of Northwest Birds	
General Education Discipline Studies courses		4

FOOTNOTES

¹ Students can choose to take MTH 085 and MTH 086, or MTH 111.

Students planning to transfer should consider MTH 111 and consult with their advisor for other specific transfer requirements.

² Pass basic skills Computer Competency Test or take CIS 120.

³ Transfer students should also take WR 227.

⁴ The Forest Resource elective can be any course with the following prefixes: BI, CH, FOR, FW, G, or GEOG courses not already in the program coursework. The elective can be taken in any term.

