

## FOREST RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY/FORESTRY

### Forest Resources Technology Associate of Applied Science

#### 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. 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.

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 opportunities working with local agencies to develop and implement land management plans in the capstone course at the end of their second year.

**ACCREDITATION**

Society of American Foresters

**PROGRAM COSTS**

(beyond standard tuition/fees and textbooks)

**Material Costs**

- Equipment costs ranging from \$665-\$915 (suggested equipment includes: hardhat, boots, vest, compass, GPS, datum, plant press, hand lens, rain gear, field book)
- Students are expected to provide their own appropriate field clothing and tools

**Enrollment Fees**

- Additional lab fees of approximately \$250

**PROGRAM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**Academic Entrance Requirements**

- Recommended:
  - Placement into MTH 085 Technical Mathematics I or higher
  - Placement into WR 121 Academic Composition or higher

**PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**Academic Requirements**

- Students must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA to earn a COCC certificate or degree.
- All courses in the program must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

**PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Core Courses**

CIS 120	Computer Concepts (or Computer Competency Test)	0-4
FOR 100	Forestry Program Orientation	1
FOR 110	Wildland Fire Science I	2
FOR 111	Forestry Perspectives	4
FOR 126	Field Studies Pacific NW Forests	1
FOR 127	Plants of the Pacific Northwest	1
FOR 180	Co-op Work Experience Forestry	3
FOR 208	Soils: Sustainable Ecosystems	4
FOR 210	Wildland Fire Science II	2
FOR 211	Supervision and Leadership	3
FOR 215	Forest Resource Capstone	3
FOR 230A	Map, Compass and GPS	3
FOR 230B	Forest Surveying	3
FOR 235	Resource Measurements	4
FOR 236	Aerial Photo	3
FOR 237	Resource Sampling	4
FOR 240A	Forest Ecology	3
FOR 240B	Wildlife Ecology	3
FOR 241A	Field Dendrology	3
FOR 241B	Dendrology	3

FOR 260	Conservation of Natural Resources	3
FOR 271	Applied Forest Ecology	3
FOR 272	Forest Entomology/Pathology	3
FOR 273	Silviculture and Harvesting Systems	5
Forestry Resource Elective <sup>1</sup>		2
FW 218	Survey of Northwest Mammals	2
or FW 212	Survey of Northwest Birds	
GEOG 265	Geographic Information Systems	4

**Other Required Courses**

HHP 252A	Fitness/First Aid	3
Discipline Studies Courses		8
MTH 085	Technical Mathematics I <sup>2</sup>	4
MTH 086	Technical Mathematics II <sup>2</sup>	4
Choose one course from the following:		3-4
SP 111	Fundamentals Public Speaking	
SP 115	Intro Intercultural Commun	
SP 218	Interpersonal Communication	
SP 219	Small Group Communication	
WR 121	Academic Composition <sup>3</sup>	4

**Total Credits 101-106**

<sup>1</sup> Choose a minimum of 2 credits of courses not already required, with the following prefixes: BI, CH, FOR, FW, G, or GEOG.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Transfer students should also take WR 227.

**ADVISING NOTES**

This program can be completed within two years provided the student is adequately prepared to take MTH 085 Technical Mathematics I and WR 121 Academic Composition 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.

This degree is designed for students planning to enter their chosen career upon graduation. As such, only selected credits are considered transferable 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.

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.