

# FORESTRY

## Small Classes, BIG Classrooms

Forests are critical to the health of the planet and its inhabitants. Foresters learn how to grow, protect and enhance forests along with the wildlife and natural resources they harbor in a manner that balances environmental and economic needs. Growing and protecting our forests is a difficult, but fulfilling task. It requires the use of applied sciences rooted in biology, chemistry and mathematics such as ecology, silviculture (culturing forest trees) and management. Forestry also requires an understanding of human dimensions to help make effective decisions where human interests are often in conflict.

Although trees are predominant in forests, foresters manage all of the resources found in forests. Our classes cover topics including forestry, wildlife, water, fire, forest economics, forest products, and GIS/GPS, and land-management techniques using the latest technologies.

## CAREERS

A forestry degree will prepare you to work with a diversity of landowners, agencies, wildlife, and a wide range of forest industries to help manage the benefits of and threats to forests throughout the region. Potential career paths may include:

**Conservation Scientists and Foresters**  
*manage the overall land quality of forests, parks, rangelands, and other natural resources*  
2019 Median Pay: \$62,410

**Environmental Scientists and Specialists**  
*use their knowledge of the natural sciences to protect the environment and human health*  
2019 Median Pay: \$71,360  
Ten-Year Job Outlook: 8% (faster than average)

**Geographers**  
Collect, analyze, and display geographic data with Geographic Information Systems  
2019 Median Pay: \$81,540

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Occupational Outlook Handbook  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/)

## \$13.2 BILLION

was the total economic  
contribution of the Kentucky  
forest sector in 2019<sup>1</sup>



**Program Contact**  
Dr. Laura Lhotka  
[laura.lhotka@uky.edu](mailto:laura.lhotka@uky.edu)  
(859) 257-8718  
104 Thomas Poe Cooper  
Building

For more program info, take a photo of this code with your smartphone. No special app required.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The university is entrusted with 14,800 acres of land nestled in the Cumberland Plateau known as Robinson Forest. In our program, students and faculty utilize Robinson Forest as a location for teaching and conducting research spanning a broad range of forestry and natural resource disciplines including forest ecology, hydrology, timber harvest and utilization, silviculture, wildlife and more.



## SPRING FIELD SEMESTER

Students participate in a semester-long immersion into the practice and application of forestry their Junior year. The first half of the semester, students travel Kentucky to learn about different ecosystems, land uses, landownership types, and wood industry facilities while visiting local forested areas such as Raven Run and the Daniel Boone National Forest. During the second half of the semester, students study through a hands-on approach at UK's Robinson Forest, one of the largest research and educational forests in the eastern U.S.



## HIGHLIGHTED COURSES

### FOR 280: Forest Resource Policy and Law

This course introduces U.S. policy and law as it applies to the management and administration of forests and resources. Students will learn about judicial decisions addressing the management of National Forests, biodiversity, water resources, and more.

### FOR 330: GIS and Spatial Analysis

This course focuses on the principles and operations of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as applied to forestry and natural resources. Students will learn how to collect field data, perform spatial analysis, and integrate data to solve spatially related natural resource problems.

### FOR 340: Forest Ecology

This course studies the forest as a biological community, covering ecosystem concepts such as energy flow, forest nutrition, nutrient cycling, and decomposition as well as examining the relationships between trees and other organisms.

## ORGANIZATIONS & CLUBS

### UK Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (Forestry Club)

*advancing the science, technology, education and practice of forestry among the student body and communities*

### UK Fire Cats

*a student wildland firefighter organization*

### Environmental Science Club

*students that share a common interest in all things environmental*

### UK Greenthumb

*engaged in environmental activism on campus and beyond*

### Student Sustainability Council

*supervise the distribution of resources to responsibly advance sustainability practices*

*Photo 1: Kentucky Forestry Club members actively worked to have the University of Kentucky designated as a Tree Campus USA by The Arbor Day Foundation*

*Photo 2: Snapshot of Forestry Students during the UK Fire Cats annual training*

*Photo 3: Forestry juniors during the Spring Field Semester measuring tree height with a laser device at the Arboretum*

*Photo 4: The KY Dept of Fish & Wildlife Resources at the Clay Wildlife Management Area explaining to Spring Field Semester students how to manage undergrowth in forests*

*Photo 5: Aerial view photo taken at 2017 Forester of the Year*