

Human Dimensions in Natural Resources

The human values we place on a resource, cultural attitudes, and social patterns all play a part in ecosystem management. Resource managers consider the whole ecosystem when seeking and applying solutions to environmental problems, investigating the biological and physical aspects as well as the human aspects. They use that information to make economic and social decisions, formulate policies, and educate the public. Human Dimensions majors may find themselves working as park rangers in remote wilderness areas or as legislative aides in the city. Their common goal is to manage our lands in harmony with people.

The Human Dimensions in Natural Resources major in the School of Environment and Natural Resources is an interdisciplinary program focusing on the science and management of our environment. Students can specialize in Ecological Communications and Education, Integrated Resource Policy and Planning or Parks, Recreation and Tourism Administration. Students will be given opportunities to explore public and private sector careers. They will be instructed by both faculty and professionals in the field serving as instructors who offer great insight into today's issues. Students will have classroom opportunities that include visits to natural resource agencies, conduct research and participate in internships. Students in this program will also be able to gain certification in environmental education, park law enforcement and wildland firefighting. Students who have the right combination of education, training and experience are most successful in this field.

Pursuing Human Dimensions in Natural Resources at Ohio State

Students interested in environment and natural resources should have a good high school foundation of math and science. They should have a strong desire to work with people and possess excellent written and verbal communication skills. Upon admission to the university, students may directly enroll into the School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Students begin their first year by building their foundational coursework in English composition, calculus and analytical geometry, general chemistry, introduction to environmental science, society and natural resources as well as a human dimensions career exploration course. They will work with our pre-major academic advisor for the first year. Once a student has completed the foundational coursework, they will work with the academic advisor to help select a faculty member from the student's area of specialization. This faculty member will serve as their faculty advisor and mentor throughout the remainder of their degree program. There are three areas of specialization to choose from:

Ecological Communications and Education Option

Everything in nature has a story to tell. As an environmental educator and communicator, your job is to tell that story and to share with people why that story is important. You might write brochures, create web sites, lead walks, and give talks, visit

schools or other community groups to share this information. Job opportunities can be found as an environmental writer, public relations specialist, or an environmental/outdoor educator. Most often students in this major work in parks, zoos and other outdoor settings. Students in this program will take courses in communications, risk decision making, concepts in environmental education as well as certification courses that include Project WET, Wild and others.

Integrated Resource Policy and Planning Option

This dynamic interdisciplinary career track involves exploring the development and maintenance of long-term natural resource use and environmental quality. Students will study the economic and social decision making that goes on in both the public and private sector. How policies are formulated and implemented and what their impact will have on society is the basis of this major. Students typically find work as lobbyists, environmental consultants or with additional education, as environmental attorneys. Students in this major will take courses in natural resources administration, planning, economics, environmental science and law, water, wilderness or public lands policy as well as other courses based on the students focused interests and career goals.

Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Administration Option

Recreation and tourism are major industries in Ohio and across the globe. Managing our public and private sector recreation areas to provide a variety of recreational opportunities to people of all ages is challenging. Our students find jobs working in urban recreation centers, national regional park systems, and outdoor adventure and tourism agencies. Students in this major will prepare for a career by taking courses in business administration, environmental risk communications, business finance, human resources management, and outdoor recreation and tourism. Students will have up to 28 additional credit hours to choose an area of specialization that may include public administration, attending a park ranger/basic police training academy, eco-tourism and adventure program planning or others.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Training or technical skills are an important part of working in any career field in natural resources and the School offers opportunities to obtain certifications ranging from wildland fire fighting and law enforcement academy training to Project WET or Learning Tree for environmental educators. All of these certifications and more are offered as part of your degree program.

The School of Environment and Natural Resources has its own Career Services office to assist environment and natural resources students with one on one counseling to identify job opportunities, assist in preparing cover letters and resumes, and preparing for interviews. They offer workshops, conduct career fairs and help students build a successful resume.

For more information, check these web sites:

Human Dimensions in Natural Resources:

senr.osu.edu/undergrad/hdim.html

School of Environment and Natural Resources: senr.osu.edu

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences:

cfaes.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Human Dimensions in Natural Resources. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Human Dimensions in Natural Resources. Consult the departmental web site, senr.osu.edu/undergrad/hdim.html, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Introduction to Environmental Science	5
GEC (calculus and analytical geometry)	10
GEC (general chemistry)	10
GEC (English composition)	5
GEC (natural resources data analysis)	5
GEC (biological sciences)	5
Society and Natural Resources	5
Natural Resources Survey	1
Electives	3
Total Hours	49

Sophomore Year:

GEC (microeconomics)	5
GEC (arts and humanities)	5
GEC (history)	10
GEC (second writing course)	5
Biological Sciences	5
Soil Science	5
Natural Resources 300-level course	3
Elective	5
Major Options	3
Total Hours	46

Junior Year:

Third Writing Course	5
Natural Resources Program Planning I & II	8
GEC (natural resources policy)	5
GEC (social science)	5
Perspectives of Natural Resource Administration	5
Natural Resources Administration	5
Electives	5
Major Options	11
Total Hours	49

Senior Year:

Natural Resources Management	5
GEC Courses	5
Electives	2
Major Options	29
Total Hours	41

The School of Environment and Natural Resources is administratively part of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Collectively, there are around 35 student organizations that are directly related to majors within this area. One of those Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) offers leadership opportunities, role models, and networking events to help students propel forward in their careers. The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society participates in workshops to gain hands on training in wildlife management and research techniques. Human Dimensions students may be interested in the Environmental Education and Parks Society or the Students for a Sustainable Campus organizations.

Additionally, students may find other unique opportunities in the Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Learning Community. Students will live with others who share the same interests and majors where they will get an opportunity to interact with faculty and staff, participate in structured study groups, in-hall academic advising and travel around Ohio and the U.S. on special trips.

Honors & Scholars Programs

ENR Scholars ENR scholars live as a community in a residence hall; take several clustered courses with other ENR Scholars, and attend seminars and lectures by leading environmental researchers. In addition, ENR Scholars have the opportunity to travel to exciting domestic and international locations like Costa Rica or Iceland to expand their knowledge of various environmental issues. They travel to pursue outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, camping and sea kayaking as well. Students are eligible for the ENR Scholars program if they are in the top 20% of their graduating class and typically have scored a 27-29 on the ACT.

Honors The Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Honors program was established to challenge superior students by providing a program in greater breadth and depth and to provide special recognition and Honors Scholarships for outstanding scholastic achievement. Students in the ENR Honors program have flexibility and the ability to design their own study plan that guides their course selection and honors research. Freshman with university honors standing may be accepted directly as a candidate for the ENR Honors program. Those students will have a 30 or better ACT and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Students not meeting those requirements may apply after 2 quarters of enrollment and with the completion of Math 150, Chemistry 121 and Biology 113 as well as a GPA of 3.4 or higher.

Career Prospects in Human Dimensions in Natural Resources

Students in Human Dimensions in Natural Resources go on to a variety of careers. Typically, Environmental Education and Parks and Recreation students go on to work for public agencies with typical salaries averaging around \$32,000 per year to start. Law enforcement positions typically pay higher salaries starting between \$40,000-\$50,000 per year. Some students in environmental education or parks and recreation will go on to attend graduate school in business or public administration. Those students with a master's degree in those areas typically find salaries that are around \$45,000 up to \$100,000 as Directors and top administrators for natural resources agencies. Many of our students interested in environmental policy go on to graduate school and professional programs such as law school. Typical starting salaries for those students working in consulting positions or other related positions are around \$42,000 per year and go up with a master's degree to average salaries of around \$60,000-\$75,000.

Revised August 2007. For the most up-to-date information on the human dimensions in natural resources program, please visit senr.osu.edu/undergrad/hdim.html.

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