Natural Resources

Degree Type
Associate in Applied Science-Transfer Degree

The Natural Resources program at WVC focuses on providing students with forestry focused foundation and understanding of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, safe and accurate fieldwork and data collection techniques, as well as the social context of natural resources management. Hands-on learning experiences are prioritized and students are provided with opportunities to engage with science in unique ways, including both western scientific ways of knowing and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) / Indigenous ways of knowing. Graduates of the program will be prepared for a broad range of technical natural resources careers, including seasonal and full-time positions and will have transfer options available for more advanced studies in the field of natural resources (or related areas). The program was developed collaboratively with local natural resource agencies, Tribes and other organizations.

Core program courses may have prerequisite requirements. English and mathematics courses require qualifying placement scores or acceptable preparatory coursework in these subjects. See course descriptions for details. Students need a "C" grade (2.0) or better in the natural resource program courses to be successful in a career in natural resources. Students interested in transferring for a university degree in natural resources should work closely with the program advisor on course selection and sequencing.

Suggested Course Sequence: Associate in Applied Science-Transfer Degree

Students are required to take 5 total credits of NATR 296 Cooperative Work Experience. This can be completed any quarter or split over multiple quarters.

Flexible Courses are listed across quarters. Due to variations in course offerings, these are flexible to take across different quarters. Course requirements include:

- *CMST& 210*
- *MATH& 146 or MATH& 107 or other College Level Math*
- *200 Level of ENGL*
- *Area of Interest Choice 1*
- *Area of Interest Choice 2*

	Total Credits	99

Course Sequencing

First Year - Fall Quarter

Course ID	Title	Credits
NATR 108	Exploring Natural Resources	3.0
NATR 112	Mathematical Applications for Natural Resources	2.0
ENGL& 101	Composition: General	5.0
	Flexible Quarter Courses for NATR AAS-T	5.0

First Year - Winter Quarter

Course ID	Title	Credits
NATR 158	Employment Seminar	2.0
NATR 160	Introduction to Forest Health and Ecology	5.0
NATR 240	Maps, Navigation, and Aerial Photos	5.0
	Flexible Quarter Courses for NATR AAS-T	5.0

First Year - Spring Quarter

Course ID	Title	Credits
ENVS 231	Introduction to Forest Resources	5.0
BIOL 186	Survey of Plants of The Pacific Northwest	5.0
	Flexible Quarter Courses for NATR AAS-T	5.0

First Year - Summer Quarter

Students are required to take 5 total credits of NATR 296 Cooperative Work Experience. This can be completed any quarter or split over multiple quarters.

Course ID	Title	Credits
NATR 296	Cooperative Work Experience	1.0-5

Second Year - Fall Quarter

Course ID	Title	Credits
ENVS 230	Intro to Fisheries Science and Management	5.0
	Flexible Quarter Courses for NATR AAS-T	5.0

Second Year - Winter Quarter

Course ID	Title	Credits
GEOG 215	Introduction to GIS	5.0
	Flexible Quarter Courses for NATR AAS-T	5.0

Second Year - Spring Quarter

Course ID	Title	Credits
NATR 210	Natural Resource Portfolio	2.0
NATR 220	Introduction to Wildland Fire Ecology and Restoration	5.0
NATR 235	Society & Natural Resources	5.0
NATR 280	Forest Harvest Systems	5.0

ENGL& 101, MATH& 146: Assessment score or prerequisite required.

Associate in Applied Science-Transfer Degree: the AAS-T is built upon the technical courses required for job preparation but also includes a college-level general education component, common in structure for all such degrees. The distinguishing characteristic of the AAS-T is a minimum of 20 credits of general education courses drawn from the same list as those taken by students completing the Direct Transfer agreement (DTA) associate degree or the Associate in Science-Transfer (AS-T) degree (that is, the courses generally accepted in transfer). AAS-T courses are designed for the dual purpose of immediate employment and as preparation for the junior year in a bachelor's degree commonly described as the bachelor of applied science (BAS). The AAS-T degree generally will not be accepted in transfer in preparation for bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degrees, although the general education component of the degree will be accepted in transfer. (State Board for Community and Technical Colleges)

Program outcomes

Students who complete the Natural Resources AAS-T degree should be able to:

- Operate tools and equipment commonly used in the natural resources field work.
- Utilize maps, aerial photographs, and land survey abilities in the management of natural resources, including geographic information systems.
- Understand and apply concepts of ecology, conservation, and management for timber, fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
- Identify important plant and animal species for North Central Washington ecosystem.
- Select and apply appropriate field techniques to sample, measure, and monitor timber, fish, and wildlife species and their habitat(s).
- Identify and model interpersonal skills and professional behavior needed for successful job performance.
- Demonstrate the ability to locate opportunities and prepare application materials for state and federal jobs in natural resources.
- Describe biotic and abiotic processes, including human impacts that influence ecosystems and contribute to ecological change.
- Objectively predict, assess, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate perspectives of diverse stakeholders regarding natural resource problems and issues.
- Understand cultural diversity and describe the impact of the global distribution of people and wealth on natural resource use and valuation.

Flexible Quarter Courses for NATR AAS-T

Elective Credits 5.0

A total of 25 credits needs to be completed for the degree including the CMST, MATH, ENGL courses below plus two courses that meet your "Area of Interest". Work with your Natural Resources Advisor to determine the best courses to fulfill your "Area of Interest" courses.

Due to variations in course offerings, students should determine their elective choices AND when those classes are offered, and then build a two-year plan that best fits those selections. There is a flexible opening available for each quarter except spring of year two.

Course ID	Title	Credits
CMST& 210	Interpersonal Communication	5.0
	MATH& 146 or other college-level math	5.0
	200-level English writing course	5.0
	Area of Interest	5.0
	Area of Interest	5.0