Available on the Jackson Campus

Purpose Statement:

To provide enhanced training in Conservation Biology to students who desire to enhance their career or prepare for doctoral studies.

Program Description

Students will perform an extensive research project on which they will write their thesis. A flexible curriculum allows students to explore their specific interests. For more information, please visit the program website at www.uu.edu/msconbio

Admission Information

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from accredited college or university; Official transcript(s) showing all course work, completion of baccalaureate degree(s), and all graduate credit previously attempted. Even if withdrawal occurred prior to earning credits and even if those credits do not apply to the current degree being sought, official transcripts must be sent from each institution.
- Minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75.
- Minimum of 12 undergraduate hours in biology applicable to a biology major. Conservation biology, biology, environmental science, forestry, or related area is preferred.
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Course Descriptions: Biology (BIO)

501. Invertebrate Zoology (4) F–Even Years
Students will develop practical vocational skills by working within a framework of designing, performing, and communicating novel scientific research as we explore the diversity, natural history, physiology, and behavior of invertebrate animals. Three hours lecture and 3 hours laboratory/week.

503. Conservation and the Christian Faith (2) F
Conservation and the Christian Faith is designed to examine the complex interaction between conservation ethics, environmental sustainability and Christian faith. We will examine the history of the church's understanding of and practices toward the care of creation, attempt to frame Christian response to ethical questions as relates to the writings of modern conservation ethicists, and address issues of conservation management and policy as they exist within

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555. Environmental Ethics (3) F–Odd Years
This course will examine the relationship between humans and their natural environment; addressing the problems confronting the necessity to balance conservation with human need and the use of natural resources. Topics to be explored include an ethical consideration for the urban environment and of wilderness preservation, the interplay of local and global environmental ethics, and the ethics of sustainability. An overarching view of the scope of historical and modern bioethical issues will also enter into our discussions.

556. Marine Biology (3) W
Lectures and labs on the nature of life in the ocean and in coastal environments. The first part of the semester is spent at Union University facilities and the second part is spent exploring the coastal environments of South Georgia and the Atlantic Coast of Florida. There is an extra fee associated with this class.

557. Ornithology (3) W
Focuses on the identification and ecology of birds in the eastern United States. Multiple field trips are required, culminating with a 10-day trip to South Georgia and Florida. There is an extra fee associated with this class.

558/558L. Plant Physiology (3) and Plant Physiology Lab (1) S–Even Years
Study of physiological factors influencing the chemical and structural composition of plant absorption and utilization of water and minerals; photosynthesis, translocation, respiration, nitrogen metabolism; and growth and development. Physiology is the study of how plants function, including resource acquisition, energy creation and use, resource allocation, life cycle, and stress response. Three hours lecture and optional 3 hours laboratory/ week.

559. Dendrology (4) F–Even Years
This course will focus on the identification and management of trees, focusing on forest ecology and silvicultural practices. The laboratory will include field trips that will focus on tree identification. Three hours lecture and optional 3 hours laboratory/week.

575. Graduate Research(1-6)
Research experience as part of the completion of the Masters in Conservation Biology. Variable credit to be determined in consultation with faculty mentor.

585. Special Topics in Biology (1-4)
Group studies which do not appear in the department course offerings. Course content will be determined by need.

598. Conservation Seminar (1) F, S
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