

Wilderness and Park Management
Campus: Vermilion

Associate of Applied Science | 68 credits
First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2024 – 17 credits (or more)		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1255 – Dendrology and Plant Ecology (MnTC Goal 3)		(CLR, CLW)	3	(2/2)
BIOL 1561 – General Biology of Cells (MnTC Goal 3)		(CLR)	4	(3/2)
ENGL 1231 – College Composition 1 (MnTC Goal 1)		(CLW)	4	
NRT 1211 – Forest Field Skills		(MATH 01001; CLR)	3	(2/2)
WILD 1265 – Introduction to Wilderness and Park Management		(CLW, CLR)	3	
SPRING SEMESTER 2025 – 13 credits (or more)		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
MATH 1200 – Liberal Arts Math (MnTC Goal 4)		(MATH 0200)	3	
OR MATH 1220 – College Algebra (MnTC Goal 4)		(MATH 0300)		
PREC 1252 – Environmental Interpretation/Education	(PREC 1241 or WILD 1265; ENGL 1231 or concurrent)		3	(3/4)
WILD 1271 – Wilderness and Park Maintenance/Operations		(PREC 1241 or WILD 1265)	4	(3/2)
WILD 1420 - Wilderness Topics		(ENGL 1231; WILD 1265)	3	
SUMMER TERM 2025 – 3 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
PREC 2220 – Wilderness/Park Management Internship	(BIOL1255; NRT1211; PREC1252; WILD1271; 2.0 GPA)		3	

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2025 – 15 credits (or more)		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ART 1425 - Environmental Design			3	
NSCI 1220 – Environmental Science (MnTC Goals 3 & 10)		(CLR)	3	
NRT 1221 – Fire Training and Mechanical Skills 1		(Concurrent NRT 1211)	1	(0/2)
OUTL 1251 – Outdoor Pursuits 1		(CLR, CLW)	3	(1.5/3)
PREC 1435 – Wilderness Survival		(CLR)	2	(1/2)
WSHD 2258 – Soils and Hydrology		(BIOL 1561 or BIOL 1200)	3	(2/2)
SPRING SEMESTER 2026 – 12 credits (or more)		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
GEOL 1215 – Physical Geology (MnTC Goal 3)		(CLR)	4	(3/2)
NRT 1223 – Fire Training and Mechanical Skills 3		(NRT 1222 or WILD 1271)	1	(0/2)
NRT 2315 – Introduction to Geographic Information Systems		(NRT 1211 or WQAL/WSHD 1656)	2	(1/2)
PREC 1255 – Search Management Systems			2	(1.5/1)
PREC 2256 – Recreation Programming		(PREC 1241 or WILD 1265; OUTL 1251)	3	

Additional Requirements (to be taken any semester offered)

CERTIFICATION COURSE – 4 credits total		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
NRT 1222 – Fire Training and Mechanical Skills 2 (fall)		(NRT 1221)	1	(0/2)
OR OUTL 1245 – Leave No Trace Trainer Certification (spring)		(CLW; CLR)		
EMSV 1400 – Emergency Medical Responder (fall)		(CLR)	3	(2/2)
OR EMSV 1275 – Wilderness First Responder (spring)				

OUTDOOR TRAVEL and NATURAL HISTORY COURSES – 4 credits

One or more credits from each area to equal a total of four credits is required. Before selecting course options, students should speak with the program coordinator to choose courses which would best suit their career goals.

Outdoor Travel	Cr	Hr Lc/Lb	Natural History	Cr	Hr Lc/Lb
OUTL 1210 – Backpack Expedition (spring)	2	(0.5/3)	BIOL/NRT 1445 – Mammal Tracking (spring)	1	
OUTL 1230 – Canoe Expedition (fall)	2	(0.5/3)	BIOL/NRT 1446 – Field Biology (fall)	2	(1/2)
OUTL/PHED 1134 – Dogsledding (spring)	1	(0.2/1.6)	BIOL/NRT 1465 – Intro Wolf/Deer Ecology	1	
OUTL/PHED 1146 – Rock Climbing (fall)	1	(0.2/1.6)	BIOL/NRT 1466 – Black Bear Ecology (spring)	1	
OUTL/PHED 1128 – Canoeing (fall)	1	(0.2/1.6)	BIOL/NRT 1467 – Beaver Ecology (fall)	1	
OUTL/PHED 1152 – Winter Camping (spring)	1	(0.2/1.6)	BIOL/NRT 1468 – Moose Ecology (fall) (CLW/CLR)	1	
OUTL/PHED 1122 – Backpacking (spring)	1	(0.4/1.2)	BIOL/NRT 2449 – Ecology/Mngmnt N. Fishes (fall)	2	(1/2)

Additional Recommended Courses: Any additional outdoor activity/skills/travel courses (PHED or OUTL), additional natural history courses (BIOL), emergency rescue courses (EMSV 1461 or 1462), and/or OUTL 1245 Leave No Trace Trainer Certification or NRT 1222 Fire Training and Mechanical Skills 3.

Program Description

The AAS degree in Wilderness and Park Management is designed to provide the academic and experiential background to qualify students for entry level positions in the management of protected lands. The curriculum addresses the history, attitudes, philosophy, legal foundations, and ecosystem and human benefits of protected lands in the United States and beyond. This framework is supplemented by the hands-on skills and certifications necessary for the planning, maintenance and interpretive elements of management.

Students will also learn about the Federal and state agencies and non-profit organizations which play vital roles in land management. Through collaborative field experiences with such agencies as the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Minnesota State Parks, students gain a realistic perspective of land management occupations and the professional preparation necessary to enter the field.

Occupational Titles

For students who choose to enter the work force following completion of the Wilderness and Park Management program, job titles may include Seasonal Park Ranger, Wilderness Aide, Interpreter, Recreation Technician, Forestry Technician, Maintenance Worker, Field Crew Leader, Wildland Fire Fighter, City or County Parks Worker, and others.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

1. Understand the philosophy of land management conservation, protection, history, ecology, recreation, legislation, and current issues.
2. Develop a realistic vision of the land management profession, at the entry level and beyond, and the steps necessary for professional preparation.
3. Gain a basic knowledge of educational techniques used to interpret the natural and human history.
4. Gain a skill base and appreciation for collaborative work, through professional experience, practical application, relevant certifications, and service learning.
5. Acquire personal skills and a land and public service ethic allowing a safe and efficient outdoor living and travel environment.
6. Demonstrate the professional skills necessary for the planning, design, and maintenance of parks and wildlands.
7. Demonstrate basic written, oral communication, and presentation skills.
8. Acquire the analytical foundation necessary to understand and apply the technological aspects of land management, including problem solving, mathematical application, and environmental issues.

Transfer and Articulation Agreements

Students may wish to transfer to a four-year college or university following completion of the Wilderness and Park Management program. Transfer institutions accepting our students may offer baccalaureate programs such as park or wildland management, parks and recreation, conservation, environmental studies, or other related disciplines. Many courses required by the Wilderness and Park Management A.A.S. degree program will be accepted in transfer at the receiving institution as equivalents, substitutions, or electives, depending on the program.

Program Faculty Contact

Alyssa Richards (alyssa.richards@minnesotanorth.edu or 218-235-2132)

AASC APPROVED: 12-13-21; DOC REV: 01.24.24

MISSION: Minnesota North College prepares lifelong learners and engaged citizens through inclusive, transformative experiences reflecting the character and natural environment of the region.

Minnesota North College is a member of Minnesota State and is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator. This document is available in alternate formats upon request by going to MinnesotaNorth.edu to obtain the contact information of your home campus Accessibility Services Coordinator.