

Natural Resources-Forest Resources
Associate of Applied Science | 64 credits

Campus: Itasca

First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2025 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1131 – Dendrology		3	(2/2)
FORT 1108 – Intro to Waters		1	(0.5/0.5)
FORT 1109 – Properties of Forest Soils		1	(0.5/0.5)
FORT 1200 – Intro to Natural Resources for Professionals		3	
FORT 1212 – Forest Inventory		4	(2.5/3)
FORT 1301 – Wildland Firefighting Training		3	(2/2)
FORT 1320 – Land Navigation		1	
SPRING SEMESTER 2026 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ENGL 1231 – College Composition 1 (MnTC Goal 1)	(CLR, CLW)	4	
FORT 1610 – Intro to Surveying	(FORT 1200)	3	(2/2)
FORT 2120 – Recreation Resource Management	(BIOL 1131)	2	
FORT 2202 – NR Internship-Forest Resources	(BIOL 1131, FORT 1200, FORT 1212; 2.0 GPA)	1	
GEOG 1204 – Principles of GIS		3	
NSCI 1131 – Principles of Wildlife Management and Ecology		3	(2/2)

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2026 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 2131 – Forest Ecology	(BIOL 1131 or BIOL 1561)	4	(2/4)
COMM 1210 – Intro to Communication (MnTC Goal 1)			
OR			
COMM 1215 – Public Speaking (MnTC Goal 1) – (preferred)		3	
OR			
COMM 1220 – Interpersonal Communication (MnTC Goal 1)			
ENGL 1240 – Technical Report Writing (MnTC Goal 1)	(ENGL 1231)	3	
FORT 1206 – Forest Protection		2	(1/2)
FORT 2105 – Wood Products		3	
FORT 2112 – Business Applications for NR Managers	(FORT 1200)	1	
SPRING SEMESTER 2027 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
FORT 2016 – Principles of Silviculture	(BIOL 1131, FORT 1212)	3	(2/2)
FORT 2109 – Forest Management and Planning		4	(2/4)
	(FORT 1206/1212, GEOG 1204; FORT 2016/2112, concurrent enrollment okay)		
FORT 2214 – Applied Technology in Natural Resource Management	(GEOG 1204)	3	
NSCI 1220 – Environmental Science (MnTC Goals 3 & 10)		3	
Any MnTC Goal 5 Course	(see catalog)	3	

Note: **Bolded** courses are “core” to all emphasis areas of the Natural Resources AAS degree program; un-bolded courses collectively differentiate this emphasis from the others.

Program Description

The Natural Resources AAS degree program provides students with the knowledge and skills to be proficient in the technical aspects of management and protection of forest resources. Graduates will successfully perform as natural resource technicians using a science-based approach, with an understanding of social, economic, and environmental issues within the natural resources field.

Minnesota North College’s Natural Resources program at Itasca leads to the Associate of Applied Science degree and is accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The Council for Higher Education Accreditation recognizes SAF as the specialized accrediting body for forestry education in the United States.

The Forest Resources emphasis provides graduates with broad based knowledge for the management of forest-based resources. Students within the program complete course work designed to develop an understanding of the interactions of

society's needs and ecological principles as they impact a variety of resource management outcomes. The Forest Resources emphasis area targets students with an interest in forest management, wildlife management and/or recreation management.

Occupational Titles

Natural Resource Technician

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

1. Gain an understanding of the biological and ecological principles relevant for making decision in Natural Resource management.
2. Develop an understanding of the interactions of society's needs, personal ethics and environmental constraints as input to resource management decisions.
3. Develop skills in the application of technology and field-based skills for Natural Resource assessment.
4. Demonstrate skills and scientific principles acquired through the Natural Resource program in a work setting in Natural Resource Management.

Transfer and Articulation Agreements

In addition to directly entering the workforce, Natural Resources AAS graduates can transfer with their degree to the University of Minnesota Crookston, University of Minnesota St. Paul, or the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. For more information regarding transfer, visit the Student Services office or call 218-322-2320 to schedule an appointment.

Program Faculty Contact

Lee Kessler (Leland.Kessler@minnesotnorth.edu or 218-322-2356)

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