

Natural Resources-Law Enforcement
 Campus: Itasca

Associate of Applied Science | 64 credits
First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2024 – 17 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1131 – Dendrology			3	(2/2)
FORT 1201 – Intro to Natural Resources			1	(0.5/1)
FORT 1205 – Forestry Math			2	
FORT 1206 – Forest Protection			2	(1/2)
FORT 1212 – Forest Inventory			4	(3/2)
FORT 1301 – Wildland Firefighting			3	(2/2)
NSCI 1138 – Natural Resources Law Enforcement			2	
SPRING SEMESTER 2025 – 16 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
COMM 1210 – Intro to Communication (MnTC Goal 1)			3	
OR				
COMM 1215 – Public Speaking (MnTC Goal 1) – (preferred)				
OR				
COMM 1220 – Interpersonal Communication (MnTC Goal 1)				
ENGL 1231 – Composition 1 (MnTC Goal 1)		(CLR, CLW)	4	
FORT/NRT 1214 – Natural Resource Careers	(Successful completion of 9 cr within NR core program)		1	
FORT 1610 – Intro to Surveying		(FORT1205 or MATH0300)	3	(1/3)
NSCI 1131 – Principles of Wildlife Management and Ecology			3	(2/2)
NSCI 2137 – Fisheries and Aquatic Science		(BIOL1131, FORT1206)	2	(2/1)

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2025 – 15 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 2131 – Forest Ecology		(BIOL 1131 or BIOL 1561)	4	(2/4)
ENGL 1240 – Technical Report Writing (MnTC Goal 1)		(ENGL1231)	3	
GEOG 1204 – Principles of GIS			3	
FORT 2105 – Wood Products			2	(1.5/0.5)
NSCI 1220 – Environmental Science (MnTC Goals 3 & 10)			3	
SPRING SEMESTER 2026 – 16 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
FORT 2016 – Principles of Silviculture		(BIOL1131, FORT1212)	3	(2/2)
FORT 2109 – Forest Management and Planning			4	(2/4)
	(FORT1206/1212, GEOG1204; FORT2016/2112, concurrent enrollment okay)			
FORT 2112 – Business Applications for NR Managers		(FORT1205, concurrent enrollment okay)	1	
FORT 2201 – NR Internship-Law Enforcement		(2.0 GPA min in 20 credits NR core courses)	2	
GEOG 2107 – Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation		(GEOG1204)	3	
SOC 1310 – Intro to Criminal Justice (MnTC Goals 5 & 9)			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.

Students interested in law enforcement careers within the field of Natural Resources are encouraged to follow a schedule of courses which include Introduction to Criminal Justice and Natural Resources Law Enforcement. Upon completion of this program at the Itasca campus, students may continue at the Hibbing campus, and after earning an additional 36-39 credits available there, complete the Law Enforcement Diploma.

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@minnesotanorth.edu or 218-322-2356)