

Natural Resources-Wildland Firefighting
Associate of Applied Science | 64 credits

Campus: Itasca

First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2024 – 16 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)
FORT 1315 – Compass and Mapping		1	
SPRING SEMESTER 2025 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
COMM 1210 – Intro to Communication (MnTC Goal 1) OR COMM 1215 – Public Speaking (MnTC Goal 1) – (preferred) OR COMM 1220 – Interpersonal Communication (MnTC Goal 1)		3	
ENGL 1231 – Composition 1 (MnTC Goal 1)	(CLR, CLW)	4	
FORT 1140 – Leadership Enhanced (L-280)		1	(0.5/0.5)
FORT/NRT 1214 – Natural Resource Careers (Successful completion of 9 cr within NR core program)		1	
FORT 1309 – Wildfire Power Saws (S-212)	(FORT1301 or concurrent enrollment)	2	(1/2)
FORT 1310 – Portable Pumps and Water Use (S-211)		2	(1/2)
FORT 2112 – Business Applications for NR Managers	(FORT2107, concurrent enrollment okay)	1	
FORT 2203 – NR Internship-Wildland Fire (First year complete with 2.0 GPA and certs in all NWCG courses)		2	

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2025 – 16 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 2050 – Fireline Supervision (S-131)	(FORT1301, FORT2203)	1	
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 1610 – Intro to Surveying	(FORT1205 or MATH0300)	3	(2/2)
FORT 2016 – Principles of Silviculture	(BIOL1131, FORT1212)	3	(2/3)
FORT 2109 – Forest Management and Planning (FORT1206/1212, GEOG1204; FORT2016/2112, concurrent enrollment okay)		4	(2/4)
GEOG 2107 – Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation	(GEOG1204)	3	
MnTC Goal 5 Course – Choose one course: ECON 1215 – Macroeconomics (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) ECON 1220 – Microeconomics (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) GEOG 1220 – World Regional Geography (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) GEOG 1225 – Intro to the World Economy (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) HIST 1211 – American History, 1877 (MnTC Goals 5 & 7) HIST 1212 – American History, 1877 to Present (MnTC Goals 5 & 7) HIST 1221 – World History, Prehistory to 1500 (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) HIST 1222 – World History, 1500 to Present (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) PSYC 1215 – General Psychology (MnTC Goals 5 & 7) PSCY 1325 – Psychology of Sustainability (MnTC Goals 5 & 10) PSYC 2225 – Group Processes (MnTC Goals 5 & 7) SOC 1200 – Intro to Sociology (MnTC Goals 5 & 7) 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.

The Wildland Firefighting emphasis consists of seven National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses taught by certified instructors, plus a full complement of natural resource classes. The goal of the program is to provide students with the necessary training and certification to become wildland firefighters with a solid background in natural resource skills. Graduates from this program are working for state and federal firefighting agencies like the Minnesota DNR and the USDA Forest service. The demand for trained fire personnel continues to grow nationwide.

Occupational Titles

Wildland Firefighter, 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

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