

Wildland Firefighting

Campus: Itasca

Diploma | 31 credits

FALL SEMESTER 2025 – 15 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1131 – Dendrology			3	(2/2)
FORT 1108 – Intro to Waters			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)		(CLW, CLR)	4	
FORT 1140 – Leadership Enhanced (L-280)			1	(0.5/0.5)
FORT 1309 – Wildfire Power Saws (S-212)	(FORT 1301 or concurrent enrollment)		2	(1/2)
FORT 1310 – Portable Pumps and Water Use (S-212)			2	(1/2)
FORT 1510 – Air Operations (S270)	(FORT 1301)		3	
FORT 2203 – NR Internship-Wildland Fire	(FORT 1301; 2.0 GPA)		1	
GEOG 1204 – Principles of GIS			3	

Note: **Bolded** courses are “core” to all emphasis areas of the Natural Resources AAS degree program; others courses listed will also apply to one or more of the four different emphasis areas of that degree program.

Program Description

The Wildland Firefighting Diploma consists of seven National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) courses taught by certified instructors, and supporting Natural Resource courses. The goal of the diploma is to provide students with the necessary background to become wildland firefighters, while also building Natural Resource skills to help secure employment during non-fire periods. The current job market for wildland firefighters is excellent, and graduates are hired by many natural resource agencies.

Students completing the Wildland Firefighting Diploma will have completed the first year of course requirements for the Natural Resources-Wildland Firefighting AAS degree program.

Occupational Titles

Wildland Firefighter

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

None at this time, however, all courses of this diploma program are requirements for the Natural Resources–Wildland Firefighting Associate of Applied Science degree program.

Program Faculty Contact

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

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