Minnesota North College

PROGRAM PLANNER
ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Fisheries and Wildlife Management

Associate of Science | 60 credits

Campus: Vermilion

First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2026 – 17 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL(NRT) 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)	(CLR, CLW)	4	
NRT 1211 – Forest Field Skills	*(MATH 0100; CLR)*	*3*	*(2/2)*
NSCI(NRT) 1265 – Natural Resource Issues and Policies (MnTC Goal 10)	*(CLR, CLW)*	*3*	

SPRING SEMESTER 2027 – 14 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1562 – General Biology of Organisms (MnTC Goals 3 & 10)	(BIOL 1561)	4	*(3/2)*
MATH 1300 – Precalculus (MnTC Goal 4)	(MATH 0300)	5	
NRT 1212 – General Forestry	(BIOL/NRT 1255; BIOL/NRT 1265; NRT 1211)	2	*(1/2)*
NRT 1226 – Principles of Fisheries & Wildlife Management	*(*BIOL 1255; NSCI 1265 *or WILD 1265; NRT 1211)*	*3*	*(1/2)*

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2027 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL(NRT) 2449 – Ecology and Management of Northern Fishes	*(BIOL 1200 or BIOL 1561)*	*2*	*(1/2)*
MATH 1311 – Calculus 1 (MnTC Goal 4)	(MATH 1300)	5	
SOC 1200 – Introduction to Sociology (MnTC Goals 5 & 7)	(CLR)	3	
WSHD(NRT) 2258 – Soils and Hydrology	(BIOL 1200 or BIOL 1561)	3	*(2/2)*
COMMUNICATION (or POLITICAL SCIENCE)		3	

SPRING SEMESTER 2028 – 13 credits (minimum)	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL(NRT) 2455 – Limnology* (MnTC Goal 3)	(BIOL 1200 or 1561)	3	*(2/2)*
OR		OR	
BIOL 2325 – Ecology (option, available odd years)* (MnTC Goal 3)	(BIOL 1562)	4	*(3/2)*
ENGL 1232 – College Composition 2 (MnTC Goal 1)	(ENGL 1231)		
OR		3	
ENGL 1240 – Technical Report Writing (MnTC Goal 1)	(ENGL 1231)		
MATH 1215 – Statistics (MnTC Goal 4)	(MATH 0200)	4	
POLITICAL SCIENCE (or COMMUNICATION)		3	

*Fisheries students are encouraged to take BIOL 2455 Limnology versus BIOL 2325 Ecology (note that only one or the other, BIOL 2455 or BIOL 2545, is required for the degree, not both courses).

Additional Requirements (to be taken as listed above)

Communication	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
COMM 1215 – Public Speaking (MnTC Goal 1)			
OR		3	
COMM 1220 – Interpersonal Communication (MnTC Goal 1)			
Political Science	**Prerequisites**	**Credits**	**Hr Lc/Lb**
POLS 1215 – American Government and Politics (spring) (MnTC Goals 5 & 9)	(CLR)		
OR		3	
POLS 1320 – State and Local Government (fall) (MnTC Goals 5 & 9)	(CLR)		

Additional Recommended Courses

Related field skills courses, NRT 2315 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and NRT 1222 Fire Training and Mechanical Skills 2, can also be resume enhancers.

Courses listed in Italics can also be applied toward completion of the Wildlife Ecology Certificate (WEC). Successful completion of the WEC requires completion of nine additional elective credits and can enhance a resume when applying for wildlife field positions. Please see your program coordinator for details.

When students complete the Fisheries and Wildlife Management AS degree and the Wildlife Ecology Certificate, they receive accreditation from the North American Wildlife Technology Association. Students are strongly encouraged to take additional wildlife ecology courses that are considered biology electives when transferring.

Program Description

The Fisheries and Wildlife Management AS is designed as a transfer program with a strong component of field-based courses early in the academic schedule, preparing students to be wildlife managers and biologists. Courses included focus on basic field skills, knowledge of plant communities, wildlife species habitat requirements, and biological and ecological concepts. This mix of field-based courses, along with the mathematic and scientific rigor of this academic program, will allow students an opportunity to gain summer employment in the field, while continuing to make progress toward a 4-year degree.

Students that complete both the Fisheries and Wildlife Management AS degree program and the Wildlife Ecology Certificate qualify for North American Wildlife Technician Association accreditation (www.nawta.org). Please notify your program coordinator if you intend to seek the NAWTA accreditation.

Occupational Titles

For students who choose to enter the work force following completion of the Fisheries and Wildlife Management AS degree program, job titles may include Fisheries Technician, Fish Hatchery Laborer, Wildlife Technician, Biological Science Technician, and others.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

1. Be able to identify wildlife and vegetative species by use of taxonomic key.
2. Develop an understanding of ecological principles and component processes.
3. Demonstrate competence in Land Navigation and the Public Land Survey System.
4. Understand and demonstrate the use of basic terminology, principles, equipment, and skills required for land, wildlife, and timber measurements.
5. Utilize the basic functions of digital tools for data collection, analysis and presentation. (GPS/GIS/PowerPoint/Excel/Graph functions)
6. Demonstrate awareness of historical, political, economic, and social factors in fish and wildlife management.
7. Develop the mathematical skills necessary to measure, monitor and manage wildlife populations and their habitat.
8. Demonstrate effective communication skills, both written and verbal, to ensure open lines of communication with resource stakeholders.

Transfer and Articulation Agreements

Students may wish to transfer to a four-year college or university following completion of the Fisheries and Wildlife Management AS degree program. Specific transfer guides are in the works with the University of Minnesota Crookston, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and Michigan Technological University to facilitate transfer of this Vermilion degree program to one of several related programs at each institution.

Program Faculty Contact

Rita Koch (rita.koch@minnesotanorth.edu or 218-235-2160)