

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

Campus: Itasca

First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2026 – 15 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1131 – Dendrology		3	(1/3)
FORT 1108 – Intro to Waters		1	(0.5/0.5)
FORT 1200 – Intro to Natural Resources for Professionals		3	
FORT 1212 – Forest Inventory		4	(2/3)
FORT 1301 – Wildland Firefighting Training		3	(2/2)
FORT 1320 – Land Navigation		1	
SPRING SEMESTER 2027 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ENGL 1231 – College Composition 1 (MnTC Goal 1)	(CLR, CLW)	4	
FORT 1140 – Leadership Enhanced (L-280)		1	(0.5/0.5)
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 1510 – Air Operations (S270)	(FORT 1301)	3	
FORT 2203 – NR Internship-Wildland Firefighting	(FORT 1301; 2.0 GPA)	1	
GEOG 1204 – Principles of GIS		3	

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2027 – 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 2106 – Wood Products		3	
FORT 2112 – Business Applications for NR Managers	(FORT 1200)	1	
FORT 2050 – Fireline Supervision (S-131)	(FORT 1301, FORT 2203)	1	
SPRING SEMESTER 2028 – 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 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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