Forestry, B.S.

Forests cover one-third of the land area in the United States. Forestry & Wildland Resources degrees teach you to understand the dynamic processes so you are able to manage these lands, ensuring a sustainable future for the nation’s forests. At Humboldt, you’ll get hands-on learning in some of the world’s most spectacular and important forests, personal attention from faculty, and a clear path to a career outdoors.

Experience Your Learning

Cal Poly Humboldt is located in the heart of the coastal redwood forest. The surrounding environment is perfect for hands-on work in the field. These outdoor classrooms, along with excellent on-campus resources, prepare you for a career outdoors.

With the 780-acre Arcata Community Forest at our doorstep, our students average more than 7 hours per week in the woods during the school year.

The Wildland Fire Laboratory is among the most well-equipped fire research facilities of any university in the United States.

The Jacoby Creek Forest, 15 minutes from the University, is a major destination for field trips, capstone projects, and student research. It is a place where students learn the fundamentals of measurement, road maintenance, harvesting, and forest administration.

Students use the Forestry and Range Experimental Greenhouse for plant response experiments testing the effects of soil fertility, water stress, density, and light. The greenhouse also contains a watershed simulator and groundwater simulator used to study rainfall, runoff, erosion, and groundwater processes.

Other local resources include the Forest and Range Herbarium, Redwood National and State Parks, L.W. Schatz Tree Farm, and many other public, private, and nonprofit organizations.

Did you know?

- A recent survey of our graduates showed that almost all of them found jobs in their chosen career.
- Despite being the largest forestry department in California, we remain a cohesive community where classes are small and professors know students by name.
- Cal Poly Humboldt is surrounded by redwood and many other forest types.
- $60,000 in annual scholarships are awarded to Forestry students.
Academics & Options

Forestry, B.S.

Forest Hydrology
This concentration is for students interested in a career in resource management with a focus on water resources. A student who completes this concentration qualifies as a forester for federal employment. By completing a second calculus class, students can be eligible for federal hydrologist positions as well.

Forest Operations
This concentration is for students interested in a career in the forest products industry and consulting. A student who completes this concentration qualifies as a forester for federal employment.

Forest Restoration
This concentration is for students interested in a career in non-commodity forest management or a career not directly associated with more traditional forestry. A student who completes this concentration qualifies as a forester for federal employment.

Forest Soils
This concentration is for students interested in a career regarding forest soils and their management issues. A student who completes this concentration qualifies as a forester, soil scientist, and soil conservationist for federal employment.

Tribal Forestry
This concentration is for students interested in both Native American Studies and forestry. It prepares students for a forestry career working with Native American tribes to manage their natural resources. A student who completes this concentration qualifies as a forester for federal employment.

Wildland Fire Management
This concentration is for students interested in a career in managing wildland fuels, prescribed fire, fire suppression, or fire ecology. A student who completes this concentration qualifies as a forester for federal employment.

Minor
- Fire Ecology Minor
- Forestry Minor
- Watershed Management Minor

Careers
With a strong foundation in the complexities of forests and related social and economic forces, you’ll be highly prepared for your future. Employment opportunities for Forestry students are excellent. Our programs rank near the top of all programs at Cal Poly Humboldt with more than 90% of graduates getting jobs related to their major.

- Wildland Fire Specialist
- Timberland Appraiser
- Forest Ranger
- Land Management Specialist
- Natural Resource Specialist
- Hydrologist
- Geospatial Technician
- Burn Crew Member
- Fire Management Specialist
- Environmental Analyst

At Cal Poly Humboldt, I was able to discover what interested me the most and ultimately choose my focus. The Forestry program is set up so that every student studying forestry will become exposed to each concentration a little throughout their degree, becoming a generalist. I enjoyed earning my forestry degree at Humboldt and highly recommend exploring all of the paths forestry has to offer.”

Richard Stein (‘17, Forestry), forestry technician for Green Diamond Resource Company, assists registered professional foresters in timber harvest plan layout and design.