

# THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

## Wildlife and Conservation Biology

EL\_WCB\_BS

120 Credits Total

[web.uri.edu/nrs/](http://web.uri.edu/nrs/)

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Education Guidelines:** General education is 40 credits. Each of the twelve outcomes (A1-D1) must be met by at least 3 credits. A single course may meet more than one outcome, but cannot be double counted towards the 40 credit total. At least one course must be a Grand Challenge (G). No more than twelve credits can have the same course code (note- HPR courses may have more than 12 credits). General education courses may also be used to meet requirements of the major or minor when appropriate.

### LIST COURSES THAT MEET GENERAL EDUCATION:

General Education Credit Count						
At least 40 credits, no more than 12 credits with the same course code						
Course	Credit	Grade		Course	Credit	Grade
*NRS 100	3					
*BIO 101	3					
*BIO 103	1					
*BIO 102	3					
*BIO 104	1					
*CHM 103	3					
*EEC 105	3					
*MTH 131	3					
*NRS 309	3					
				Total Gen Ed Credits		

**NOTE: BECAUSE MOST COURSES MEET MORE THAN ONE OUTCOME, YOUR OUTCOME AUDIT MIGHT BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOU REACH YOUR 40 CREDITS. HOWEVER, YOU MUST STILL COMPLETE 40 CREDITS OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

\*course fulfills general education and a major requirement

### LIST COURSE AS EACH OUTCOME IS MET:

General Education Outcome Audit		
	Course	Grade
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>		
A1. STEM		
A2. Social & Behavioral Sciences		
A3. Humanities		
A4. Arts & Design		
<b>COMPETENCIES</b>		
B1. Write effectively		
B2. Communicate effectively		
B3. Mathematical, statistical, or computational strategies		
B4. Information literacy		
<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>		
C1. Civic knowledge & responsibilities		
C2. Global responsibilities		
C3. Diversity & Inclusion		
<b>INTEGRATE &amp; APPLY</b>		
D1. Ability to synthesize		
<b>GRAND CHALLENGE</b>		
G. At least one course of your 40 credits is an approved "G" course (NRS330G recommended - A1, C2, G)		

**Requirements to Transfer out of University College for Academic Success:** Must have completed at least 30 credits with a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA, as well as a grade of C or better in BIO 101/103, 102/104, and NRS 100.

**Advising Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

## Wildlife & Conservation Biology

EL\_WCB\_BS

120 Earned Credits Total

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

### ABOUT THE BS in WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION BIOLOGY:

The WCB curriculum combines a grounding in natural sciences with the interdisciplinary training needed to manage wildlife populations and their habitats. We emphasize hands-on approaches and practical training through internships and independent study, preparing our students to effectively communicate and translate their knowledge to solve real-world problems. This major fulfills the educational requirements for employment as a **\*\*Federal Wildlife Biologist**, certification as an **\*\*Associate Wildlife Biologist** by The Wildlife Society, and provides an excellent foundation for graduate school. [web.uri.edu/nrs/wildlife-and-conservation-biology/](http://web.uri.edu/nrs/wildlife-and-conservation-biology/)

### REVIEW YOUR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

<b>Intro to URI &amp; NRS (2 credits)</b>			
Course	Semester	Credits	Grade
URI 101 Plan. for Academic Success		1	
NRS 101 Freshman Inquiry into NRS		1	

<b>Intro. Professional Courses (19 credits)</b>			
Course	Semester	Credits	Grade
*NRS 100 Natural Resource Conserv.		3	
NRS 200 Seminar in Natural Resources		1	
NRS 212 Introduction to Soil Science		4	
NRS 223 Conservation Biology		4	
BIO 262 Introductory Ecology		4	
*EEC 105 Intro. to Resource Econ.		3	

<b>Basic Sciences (22-23 credits)</b>			
Course	Semester	Credits	Grade
*BIO 101 Principles of Biology I		3	
*BIO 103 Principles of Biology Lab I		1	
*BIO 102 Principles of Biology II		3	
*BIO 104 Principles of Biology Lab II		1	
*CHM 103 Introductory Chemistry		3	
CHM 105 Lab for Chemistry 103		1	
CHM 124 Intro. to Organic Chemistry		3	
CHM 126 Lab for Chemistry 124		1	
*MTH 131 Applied Calculus I		3	
STA 308 Intro. Statistics (4); <u>or</u> STA 409 Statistical Methods Res.(3)			

<b>Free Electives</b>			
Courses taken beyond the requirements of the major and general education to reach the 120 credits required for graduation.			
Course	Semester	Credits	Grade

\*Courses approved for general education.

A grade of C or higher is required in BIO101/103, BIO102/104, and NRS100

Minimum 2.0 GPA required in major for graduation.

Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA required for graduation.

<b>Concentration Courses (at least 22 credits)</b>			
<b>Must include at least 12 credits from NRS</b>			
<i>Required Concentration (13 - 14 credits)</i>			
Course	Semester	Credits	Grade
NRS 305 Prin. of Wildlife Ecol. & Mgt.		3	
*NRS 309 Wildlife Field Techniques		3	
NRS 406 Wetland Wildlife Mgt.(4); <u>or</u> NRS 407 Endangered Species Cons.(3)			
NRS 323 Field Botany & Taxonomy		4	
<i>Additional Concentration Courses (9-11 credits)</i>			
<i>**See approved Concentration Course List</i>			
Course	Semester	Credits	Grade

<b>Supporting Electives (at least 24 credits)</b>			
<b>Must include at least 6 credits from NRS.</b>			
<b>**See approved Supporting Elective list</b>			
Courses may be selected from the approved list of <b>Supporting Electives</b> or <b>Concentration Courses</b> not used for concentration. Up to 12 credits of experiential learning courses may be taken. Experiential Learning courses may be used for a maximum of 10 credits for Concentration credit (letter grade only) or up to 12 credits for Supporting Electives (Letter Grade or S/U). <b>Senior Colloquium (NRS 480, 2 credits) is strongly recommended.</b>			
Course	Semester	Credits	Grade

**\*\*Please speak to your faculty advisor about choosing classes to prepare for your future, including specific guidance on The Wildlife Society and Federal Wildlife Biologist GS-486 qualifications.**

**B.S. Wildlife & Conservation Biology - Effective Fall 2026**  
**College of the Environment and Life Sciences**

<b>Approved Concentration Courses (9 - 11 credits) <sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Course (credits):</b>
NRS 304 Field Ornithology (3)
NRS 324 Mammalogy (4)
*NRS 330G The Biodiversity Crisis (3) <i>A1, C2, G</i>
NRS 355 Wildlife Conservation & Hunting (3)
NRS 366 Vertebrate Biology (3)
NRS 401 Foundations in Restoration Ecology (4)
NRS 402 Quantitative Ecology I (3)
NRS 403 Quantitative Wildlife Ecology Field Investigations (1)
NRS 406 Wetland Wildlife Management (4)
NRS 407 Endangered Species Conservation (3)
NRS 409 Concepts in GIS and Remote Sensing (4)
NRS 410 Fundamentals of GIS (3)
NRS 415 Remote Sensing of the Environment (3)
NRS 417 Herpetology (4)
NRS 419 Field Experience in Herpetology (1)
NRS 423 Wetland Ecology (4)
NRS 475 Coral Reef Conservation (3)
NRS 491/492 NRS Special Projects (1-3) <sup>2</sup>
NRS 497 Cooperative Internship (6 or 12) <sup>2</sup>
NRS 499 Senior Thesis in Natural Resources Science (6) <sup>2</sup>
NRS 516 Remote Sensing in Natural Resources Mapping (3)
NRS 520 Quantitative Techniques in Natural Resource Research (3)
NRS 522 Advanced GIS Analysis of Environmental Data (3)
NRS 533 Landscape Pattern and Change (3)
BIO 455 Marine Ecology (3)
BIO 465 Coral Reef Ecology (3)
BIO 467 Animal Behavior (3)
BIO 480 Community Ecology (3)
*CSC 201 Introduction to Computer Programming (4) <i>B3</i>
*MTH 141 Introductory Calculus With Analytic Geometry (4) <i>A1, B3</i>

**\*Courses approved to satisfy major and general education requirements.**

<sup>1</sup> **Please speak to your faculty advisor about choosing classes to prepare for your future, including specific guidance on The Wildlife Society and Federal Wildlife Biologist GS-486 qualifications.**

<sup>2</sup> **Maximum of 10 credits of experiential learning courses (letter grade courses only) can count for concentration credits.**

**B.S. Wildlife & Conservation Biology - Effective Fall 2026**  
**College of the Environment and Life Sciences**

**APPROVED SUPPORTING ELECTIVES (24 Credits Required):**

Wildlife & Conservation Biology students are required to complete 24 credits of Supporting Electives. **At least 6 credits** must be NRS courses. Courses may be chosen from: a) the following list; b) concentration courses not used for concentration credit; or c) any NRS Experiential Learning Courses. Approved courses may change with availability or with approval of your advisor.

<b>Botany</b>	<b>Resource Policy, Admin., or Land Use Planning</b>
NRS 301 Forest Science (3)	*NRS/GEO/EEC 234G Introduction to Water Resources (3) <i>A1, G</i>
NRS 423 Wetland Ecology (4)	*NRS 300/*MAF 350 Global Sustainable Dev. (3) <i>A2, C2</i>
NRS 425 Wetlands Field Investigations (1)	NRS 326 Leadership in Global Environmental & Health Crises (3)
NRS 445 Invasive Species (4)	*NRS 330G The Biodiversity Crisis (3) <i>A1, C2, G</i>
BIO 311 Plant Structure & Development (4)	NRS 355 Wildlife Conservation & Hunting (3)
BIO 321 Plant Diversity (4)	NRS 401 Foundations in Restoration Ecology (4)
BIO 346 Plant Physiology (3)	*NRS/GEO 405G Indonesia: Biodiversity, Geo., Water Res. (3) <i>A1, G</i>
BIO 352 General Genetics (4)	*NRS 450G Soil Land Use and the Environment (3) <i>D1, G</i> ; and
BIO 353 Genetics Laboratory (1)	*NRS 452G Soil, Water, and Land Use Investigation (1) <i>D1, G</i>
BIO 365 Biology of Algae (4)	NRS 461 Watershed Hydrology and Management (4)
BIO 418 Ecology of Marine Plants (4)	CPL 434 Introduction to Environmental Law (3)
<b>Zoology</b>	*MAF 100 Human Use Marine Environment (3) <i>A2, C1</i>
NRS 304 Field Ornithology (3)	MAF 120 New England & The Sea (3)
NRS 324 Mammalogy (4)	*MAF 220 Introduction to Marine & Coastal Law (3) <i>A2, C1</i>
NRS/BIO/ENT 350 Field Entomology & Taxonomy (4)	*MAF 312 Politics of the Ocean (3) <i>C2, D1</i>
NRS/BIO/ENT 388 Biology of Bees & Pollination Ecology (3)	MAF 461 Coastal Zone Management (3)
NRS 417 Herpetology (4)	MAF 471 Critical Island Studies (3)
NRS 419 Field Experience in Herpetology (1)	MAF 484 Environmental Analysis & Policy in Coastal Mgt. (3)
NRS 505 Biology & Management of Migratory Birds (2)	<b>Communications</b>
NRS 534 Ecology of Fragmented Landscapes (2)	NRS 442 Environmental Crisis Communication (3)
NRS 538 Physiological Ecology (3)	COM 202 Public Speaking (3)
BIO 201 General Animal Physiology (4)	COM 208 Argumentation and Debate (3)
BIO 260 Marine Biology (4)	COM 210 Persuasion: The Rhetoric of Influence (3)
BIO 272 Introduction to Evolution (4)	COM 221 Interpersonal Communication (3)
BIO 286 Humans, Insects, and Disease (3)	COM 251 Small Group Communication (3)
BIO 302 Animal Development (4)	COM 310 Topics in Communication (3)
BIO 354 Invertebrate Zoology (4)	*COM/SUS 315 Environ. Dimensions of Communication (3) <i>C1, D1</i>
BIO 355 Marine Invertebrates of Southern N.E. (3)	*JOR 110 Introduction to Mass Media (3) <i>A3, C1</i>
BIO/ENT 385 Introduction to Entomology (3)	JOR 220 Media Writing (3)
	JOR/PRS 340 Public Relations (3)
	*WRT 201 Argumentative & Persuasive Texts (3) <i>B1, B4</i>
<b>Experiential Learning Courses</b>	WRT 235 Digital Writing and Rhetoric (4)
Up to 12 credits of Experiential Learning Courses may be taken. A maximum of 10 credits of experiential learning courses may be used for concentration credit (letter grade only) or up to 12 credits of experiential learning courses may be used as supporting electives (letter grade or S/U). S/U courses cannot be used for Concentration credit.	*WRT 332 Technical Writing (3) <i>B1, B2</i>
	*WRT 334 Science Writing (4) <i>B1, B2</i>
	WRT 353 Issues and Methods in Writing Consultancy (4)
	WRT 533 Seminar in Graduate Writing in Life Sciences (3)
NRS 395 Research Apprenticeship (1-3) - <b>S/U only</b>	<b>Other Approved Supporting Electives</b>
NRS 397 Internship (1-6) - <b>S/U only</b>	*NRS/AFS/CMB/PLS 190 Issues in Biotechnology (3) <i>A1</i>
NRS 491/492: NRS Special Projects (1-3) - <b>Letter Grade</b>	NRS 480 Colloquium (2) - strongly recommended
NRS 495 Advanced Apprenticeship (3) - <b>S/U only</b>	BIO / NRS 263 Introduction to Ecological Data Analysis (1)
NRS 497 Cooperative Internship (6 or 12) - <b>Letter Grade</b>	EVS 366 Communicating Env. Research & Outreach (2)
NRS 498 Teaching Practicum (1-3) - <b>S/U only</b>	*GEO 103 Understanding the Earth (4) <i>A1, B4</i>
NRS 499 Senior Thesis in Natural Resources Sci. (6) - <b>Letter Grade</b>	*MTH 103 Applied Precalculus (3) <u>or</u> *MTH 111 Precalculus (3) <i>A1, B3</i>

\*Courses approved to satisfy major and general education requirements.

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Effective: 2026 - 2027

**B.S. Wildlife & Conservation Biology - Effective Fall 2026**  
**College of the Environment and Life Sciences**  
**SAMPLE Four-Year Plan**

**First Year *Fall* Semester**

Course Code	Description	Cr
*NRS 100	Natural Resource Conservation	3
NRS 101	Freshman Inquiry into NRS	1
URI 101	Planning for Academic Success	1
*BIO 101/103	Principles of Biology I/ Lab	4
*MTH103, 111, or 131	Applied Precalculus, Precalculus, or Applied Calculus (based on placement)	3
	*General Education Course	3-4
		<b>15-16</b>

**First Year *Spring* Semester**

Course Code	Description	Cr
NRS 223	Conservation Biology	4
*BIO 102/104	Principles of Biology II/ Lab	4
*CHM 103/105	Introductory Chemistry/ Lab	4
*MTH 131, or *General Ed.	Applied Calculus, or General Education Course	3-4
		<b>15-16</b>

Note: MTH131 is required for WCB majors. Math placement determines if a prerequisite is needed (MTH103 or 111).

**Year 1 Milestones: Complete 30 credits with a cumulative gpa of 2.0 or higher. Transfer from UC to CELS. NRS100 & NRS223 (offered fall and spring). Grades of C or higher required in BIO101, 102, 103, 104, NRS100. Consider a summer internship.**

**Sophomore Year *Fall* Semester**

Course Code	Description	Cr
NRS 200	Seminar in Natural Resources	1
NRS 212	Intro to Soil Science	4
BIO 262	Introductory Ecology	4
*EEC 105	Intro to Resource Economics	3
	*General Education Course	3-4
		<b>15-16</b>

**Sophomore Year *Spring* Semester**

Course Code	Description	Cr
	NRS Supporting Elective	3-4
CHM 124/126	Intro. to Organic Chemistry/Lab	4
STA 308	Introductory Statistics	4
	*General Education Course	3
	Free Elective	3
		<b>17</b>

**Year 2 Milestones: Complete 60 credits with a cumulative gpa of 2.0 or higher. NRS200 & NRS212 (offered fall only). BIO262 should be completed sophomore year. Meet with faculty advisor to plan jr/sr year courses and discuss internship/research/study abroad opportunities.**

**Junior Year *Fall* Semester**

Course Code	Description	Cr
NRS 304 or BIO 366	Field Ornithology; or Vertebrate Biology	3
NRS324	Mammalogy	4
	NRS Supporting Elective	3-4
	NRS Supporting Elective	3-4
	*General Education Course	3
		<b>16-18</b>

**Junior Year *Spring* Semester**

Course Code	Description	Cr
NRS 305	Principles of Wildlife Ecology & Management	3
*NRS 309	Wildlife Management Tech.	3
	NRS Supporting Elective	3-4
	*General Education Course	3
	Free Elective	3
		<b>15-16</b>

**Year 3 Milestones: Complete 90 credits with a cumulative gpa of 2.0 or higher. NRS 305 and 309 (offered spring only). Meet with faculty advisor to plan senior year courses, discuss internship/research opportunities, and prepare Intent to Graduate Application for fall submission.**

**Senior Year *Fall* Semester**

Course Code	Description	Cr
NRS 304 or BIO 366	Field Ornithology; or Vertebrate Biology	3
NRS 323	Field Botany & Taxonomy	4
NRS 402	Quantitative Ecology I	3
	NRS Supporting Elective	3-4
	Free Elective	3
		<b>16-17</b>

**Senior Year *Spring* Semester**

Course Code	Description	Cr
NRS 406 or NRS 407	Wetland Wildlife Mgt. (4); or Endangered Species Conservation (3)	3-4
NRS 417	Herpetology	4
	NRS Supporting Elective	3-4
	NRS Supporting Elective	3-4
	NRS Internship	
		<b>15-16</b>

**Total Credits to Graduate = 120**

**Year 4 Milestones: Complete all remaining courses and requirements. NRS406 & 407 (offered spring only). Turn in Intent to Graduate packet fall semester. Minimum of 120 earned credits with a cumulative gpa of 2.0 or higher; and a minimum 2.0 gpa in major concentration courses.**

NOTE: Visit <https://web.uri.edu/nrs/academics/environmental-science-and-management/curriculum/> for a list of NRS fall & spring courses & confirm with your advisor.