

WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION BIOLOGY



As an undergraduate, seek laboratory experiences such as research projects, volunteering with professors, summer jobs, or internships. Participate in research programs sponsored by environmental and government organizations. Explore internships with the Student Conservation Association. Consider various certification options available through professional associations. Earn master's degree for greater variety and autonomy on the job. Earn a Ph.D. to work on high-level research projects, to direct research programs, to enter high levels of administration, and to teach at four-year post-secondary institutions. Postdoctoral fellowships may also be required. The wildlife and fisheries degree can be good preparation for a career in healthcare such as medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science, but professional degrees and licenses are also necessary to practice in these fields.

Combine an undergraduate degree with a degree in law, business, education, information science, or other discipline to expand career opportunities. Become familiar with the specific entrance exam for graduate or professional schools in your area of interest. Learn to work independently and as part of a team. Get involved with hobbies that will help you develop relevant skills and expose you to the outdoors, such as hunting, fishing, or bird watching. Join professional associations and community organizations, and read related journals to stay abreast of current issues in the field and to develop networking contacts. Actively participate in related campus groups.

Read related journals to stay abreast of current issues in the field. Secure strong relationships and personal recommendations from professors and/or employers. Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. The federal government is the largest employer of scientists. Gain experience with grant writing and fundraising techniques. Often research must be funded in this manner. Be prepared to gain experience by volunteering or accepting non-paid or entry-level positions. This field is competitive, and experience is necessary to advance.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Resource/range/property management
- Hunting and game management
- Permitting and compliance
- Law enforcement and policy
- Wildlife biology and ecology
- Research
- Animal control
- Zoology
- Nongame and endangered species
- Biodiversity

Natural resources conservation service
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Justice
Department of Defense
Army Corps of Engineer
National and international environmental and conservation organizations
Zoos, aquariums, and other collections of animals
Universities and colleges
Non-governmental organizations (e.g., Trout Unlimited, Wild Turkey Foundation, Nature Conservancy)
Government hatcheries
Private commercial fish farms
Shellfish operations
Public and private aquariums

COMMON EMPLOYERS



PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



- [American Fisheries Society](#)
- [National Wild Turkey Federation](#)
- [North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association](#)
- [Park Law Enforcement Association](#)
- [Quality Deer Management Association](#)
- [Refuge Law Enforcement](#)
- [Society for Range Management](#)
- [Student Conservation Association](#)
- [Wildlife Society](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#)



STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills, and comfort being in close proximity with large and small animals.
- Advanced degrees are often required in these positions, especially for research and biology.
- Supplement curriculum with additional science courses in relevant areas, (e.g., forestry, soil science, ecology and animal science).
- Gain extensive laboratory and research experience.
- Research requirements for certifications available through the Wildlife Society, (e.g., Certified Wildlife Biologist).
- Seek internships, summer jobs, or volunteer positions to gain experience. Some professionals in the field will begin their careers in temporary jobs.
- Join related campus organizations such as the Student Chapter of the Wildlife and Fisheries Society.
- Develop public speaking and conflict management skills through coursework or experience.
- For law enforcement jobs, be prepared to complete additional officer training and to go through a background check as part of the hiring process.
- Attain experience with firearms, boat safety, and first aid training.
- Become familiar with government job application procedures and use your college career center for assistance.
- Be prepared to relocate to areas with abundant natural resources.