

# WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

What can I do with this major?

## AREAS

### CONSERVATION

Resource/range management  
Wildlife/fisheries biology  
Education/interpretation

## EMPLOYERS

State/Federal wildlife agencies  
Wildlife refuges  
Federal land management agencies  
Environmental Protection Agency  
National and international environmental/  
conservation agencies  
Zoos, aquariums and other collections of animals  
Universities and colleges  
Non-governmental organizations, e.g. Trout  
Unlimited, Wild Turkey Foundation

## STRATEGIES

Practice excellent communication skills.  
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 teaching.  
Gain extensive laboratory and research experience.  
Supplement curriculum with additional science  
courses in relevant areas (e.g. genetics, animal  
behavior, microbiology)  
Become familiar with federal job application procedure  
for government work.  
Gain work experience in area of interest through  
internships, summer jobs, or part-time work

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

State/federal wildlife and land management  
including:  
Fish and Wildlife Agency  
National Park and Forest Services  
Land Management Bureau  
Department of Justice

Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort  
being in close proximity with large and small  
animals.  
Be prepared to complete additional officer training as  
prerequisite for entry-level jobs.  
Seek internships or related summer jobs to gain  
experience.  
Attain experience with firearms, boat safety, and first  
aid training.  
Develop public speaking and conflict management  
skills through coursework or experience.  
Complete a minor in criminal justice.  
Become familiar with federal job application procedure  
for government work.  
Be prepared to relocate to areas with abundant natural  
resources.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### AQUACULTURE

Hatchery Operations Management  
Aquarium Operations Management  
Research  
Quality Control

Private commercial fish farms  
Shellfish operations  
Government hatcheries  
Public and private aquariums  
Non-profit research facilities  
Inspection organizations  
Colleges and universities

Gain work experience through internships, co-ops, or summer or part-time work.  
Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort being in water.  
Practice good communication and problem solving skills.  
Exercise close attention to detail.  
Gain extensive laboratory and research experience for research positions.  
Supplement coursework with business minor.

### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Non-classroom Education  
Research

Universities and colleges  
Public and private schools, K-12  
Museums  
Zoos  
Nature centers and parks

Certification is required for K-12 schoolteachers, and Ph.D. is needed for universities and colleges.  
Gain experience working with students through tutoring, interning, or volunteering.  
Learn to work well with all types of people.  
Develop excellent interpersonal and public speaking skills.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- 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.
- Consider a certificate program or specialized master's program to qualify for research technician positions.
- 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.
- Join professional associations and community organizations, and read related journals to stay abreast of current issues in the field and to develop networking contacts.

**GENERAL INFORMATION CONTINUED**

- 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.