

CURRICULUM STANDARD

Effective Term
Fall 2009
[2009*03]

Curriculum Program Title	Parks and Natural Resource Management	Code	A15360
Concentration	(not applicable)		

Curriculum Description

The Parks and Natural Resource Management curriculum is designed to provide students with knowledge and experience in the areas of interpretation and environmental education, natural resource management, visitor needs, and other administrative duties and program development as they relate to an outdoor recreational setting.

Students will be trained to lead groups in various outdoor recreational activities and programs, as well as entry-level positions with natural resource-based agencies.

Graduates should qualify for entry-level positions as park rangers and outdoor recreation leaders and programmers. Employment opportunities may be found in state and local parks and recreational systems, privately operated forest reserves, commercial outfitters, and outdoor leadership schools.

*Curriculum Requirements**

[for associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs in accordance with 23 NCAC 02E.0204 (3)]

- I. **General Education.** Degree programs must contain a minimum of 15 semester hours including at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics. Degree programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of communications. Diploma programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of general education; 3 semester hours must be in communications. General education is optional in certificate programs.
- II. **Major Hours.** AAS, diploma, and certificate programs must include courses which offer specific job knowledge and skills. Work experience, including cooperative education, practicums, and internships, may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit. *(See second page for additional information.)*
- III. **Other Required Hours.** A college may include courses to meet graduation or local employer requirements in a certificate, diploma, or associate in applied science program. These curriculum courses shall be selected from the Combined Course Library and must be approved by the System Office prior to implementation. Restricted, unique, or free elective courses may not be included as other required hours.

	AAS	Diploma	Certificate
Minimum General Education Hours	15	6	0
Minimum Major Hours	49	30	12
Other Required Hours	0-7	0-4	0-1
Total Semester Hours Credit (SHC)	64-76	36-48	12-18

*Within the degree program, the institution shall include opportunities for the achievement of competence in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and basic use of computers.

Major Hours

[ref. 23 NCAC 02E.0204 (3)]

- A. Core.** The subject/course core is comprised of subject areas and/or specific courses which are required for each curriculum program. A diploma program offered under an approved AAS program standard or a certificate which is the highest credential level awarded under an approved AAS program standard must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit derived from the subject/course core of the AAS program.
- B. Concentration.** (if applicable). A concentration of study must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit from required subjects and/or courses. The majority of the course credit hours are unique to the concentration. The required subjects and/or courses that make up the concentration of study are in addition to the required subject/course core.
- C. Other Major Hours.** Other major hours must be selected from prefixes listed on the curriculum standard. A maximum of 9 semester hours of credit may be selected from any prefix listed, with the exception of prefixes listed in the core or concentration. Work experience, including cooperative education, practicums, and internships, may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit.

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	AAS	Diploma	Certificate																								
Minimum Major Hours Required	49 SHC	30 SHC	12 SHC																								
<p>A. CORE <i>A diploma offered under this AAS degree requires a minimum of 12 SHC extracted from the required subject/course core of the AAS degree.</i></p> <p>Required Courses:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">FOR 121</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Dendrology</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4 SHC</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">REC 113</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Programming & Special Populations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4 SHC</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">REC 122</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Program Administration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 SHC</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">REC 211</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Resource Interpretation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 SHC</td> </tr> </table> <p>Required Subject Areas:</p> <p>Maintenance. Select One:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">FWL 252</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Wildlife Management Techniques</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 SHC</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">REC 217</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Maintenance and Facility Management</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 SHC</td> </tr> </table> <p>Protection. Select One:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">FOR 240</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Forest Protection</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 SHC</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">FOR 241</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Forest Fire Management</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 SHC</td> </tr> </table>	FOR 121	Dendrology	4 SHC	REC 113	Programming & Special Populations	4 SHC	REC 122	Program Administration	3 SHC	REC 211	Resource Interpretation	2 SHC	FWL 252	Wildlife Management Techniques	3 SHC	REC 217	Maintenance and Facility Management	3 SHC	FOR 240	Forest Protection	3 SHC	FOR 241	Forest Fire Management	3 SHC	19 SHC	12 SHC	
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B. CONCENTRATION (not applicable)																											
<p>C. OTHER MAJOR HOURS <i>To be selected from the following prefixes:</i></p> <p>AGR, BIO, BUS, CIS, CJC, COE, CSC, ENV, FOR, FWL, GIS, HEA, HOR, LSG, PED, REC, TRF, and TXY</p> <p><i>Foreign language courses (including ASL) that are not designated as approved other major hours may be included in all programs up to a maximum of 3 semester hours of credit.</i></p>																											