College of the Redwoods Forestry and Natural Resources Program Purpose and Learning Outcomes

Accepted by the CR FNR Advisory Committee 2020
Reviewed 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Mission Statement

The Forestry and Natural Resources program is committed to providing high quality, science-based education about the ecology and management of forested systems with an emphasis on utilizing the natural environment of the region in classroom, laboratory, and field-based experiential learning that serves the needs of students and the profession. The FNR program strives to foster the critical thinking, **teamwork,** and analytic skills necessary for meeting the complex social and economic demands on forests as well as the **interdisciplinary and** technical knowledge essential for an educated forestry professional. The program strives to integrate a diversity of perspectives including traditional values and uses of land and forests throughout its curriculum and is committed to serving the demographically diverse community in the region.

Goals and Objectives:

1) Fully support the mission of the College of the Redwoods by providing both Academic and Career educational opportunities for a diverse population of students who have diverse goals.
   a. Meet current industry/profession requirements for qualified forest technicians.
   b. Develop and maintain curriculum that articulates with 4-year Forestry programs.
   c. Implement recruitment and retention efforts aimed at diverse populations.

2) Develop and deliver an up-to-date curriculum that enables students to function successfully as forestry and natural resources workforce.
   a. Routinely evaluate curriculum offerings with input from the Advisory Committee and integrate assessment results.
   b. Implement current state-of-the-art technology in relevant areas.
   c. Integrate fundamentals of field work and safety throughout curriculum.

3) Support student success by engaging diverse viewpoints and opportunities for experiential learning about forests and natural resources.
   a. Develop targeted recruitment efforts towards under-represented populations.
   b. Implement strategies to increase student success, particularly for under-prepared students, in highly technical courses.
   c. Encourage and develop work-based learning opportunities.

d. Strive to achieve diversity among faculty members within the FNR discipline.
4) Provide the resources and development opportunities necessary to meet Society of American Foresters accreditation standards.
    a. Develop and maintain sustainable funding sources for continued technology maintenance and updates.
    b. Provide funding opportunities for faculty travel and development in both the profession and in pedagogy.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the FNR program students will be able to:
1) Discuss the history, policy, economics, and management of natural resources including how society utilizes forests and other natural resources **including a diversity of perspectives including traditional values and uses of land and forests.**
2) Acquire, analyze, and interpret quantitative data about natural resources.
3) Identify and describes species and environmental factors in forest ecosystems and use ecological knowledge about natural resources to analyze predicted outcomes of management.
4) Acquire, analyze, and interpret geospatial information about natural resources.
5) Understand and use safe practices in the field **with an emphasis on teamwork, equity, and inclusion.**