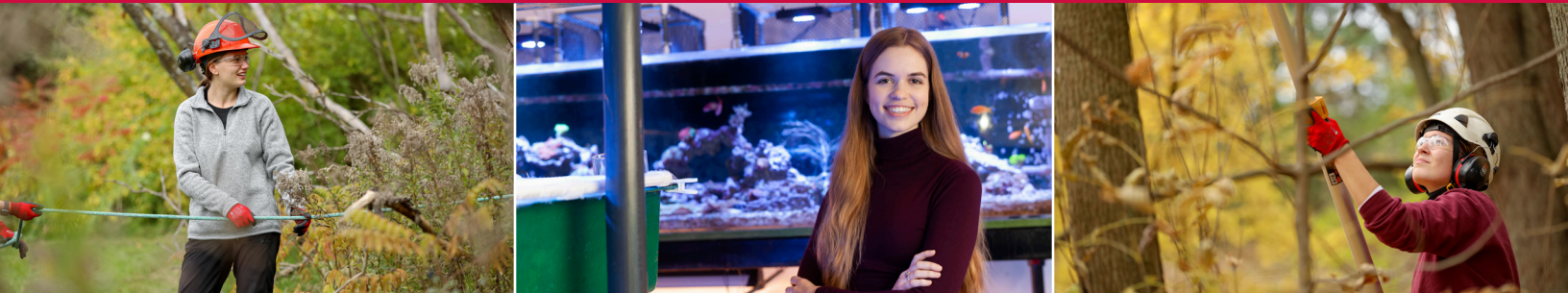


Bachelor of Science

Wildlife Biology and Conservation



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Wildlife Biology and Conservation major focuses on both the ecological and evolutionary factors that influence the sustainability of species and communities, and an understanding of how these factors can be used to manage natural systems or species that are at risk or invasive. The objective of this major is to provide students with an integrated foundation in three disciplines necessary to understand the origins, interactions, and protection of plant and animal diversity: evolution, ecology, and conservation biology.

This major will provide students with a unique interdisciplinary opportunity to study the causes, consequences, and conservation of plant and animal diversity. There is currently no other major in Canada that explicitly integrates ecology, evolution, and conservation into a single undergraduate degree. This major also builds on the University of Guelph's long-standing reputation in the areas of biology and natural resources management.

The program offers a sound scientific background in preparation for careers in resource management, conservation, ecological consulting, teaching, and government service. Practical experience gained in lab, field, and research co-op work terms, combined with knowledge of strategies for conservation, management and policy, will broaden future career opportunities in this field.

WHY CO-OP?

As a co-op student, you will gain relevant paid work experience, build professional networks, and develop essential interpersonal skills needed to succeed in the workplace, all while earning your university degree. Guelph's co-op program is unique due to the exceptional level of support provided, including a co-op preparatory course, a personal connection with a Co-op Coordinator to assist you during the employment process, and access to senior student mentors.

COURSE SEQUENCING

In the Wildlife Biology and Conservation program, you will participate in four co-op work terms throughout your five years at the University of Guelph. This sequencing is viewable below:

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SUMMER
ONE	Academic	Academic	Off
TWO	Academic	Academic	Work
THREE	Work	Academic	Off
FOUR	Academic	Work	Work
FIVE	Academic	Academic	



SAMPLE JOBS

There is a diverse selection of jobs made available to Wildlife Biology and Conservation co-op students, in government, academic, and private sectors. Students may work in a laboratory, in the field, or in an office setting. Below are some examples of positions that may be held by Wildlife Biology and Conservation Co-op students:

Conservation Technician

The student will assist with conservation management for protected natural lands by working closely with staff, partner organizations, local stewards and volunteers. Responsibilities include monitoring biodiversity targets and threats, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, visitor outreach, and conducting annual property inspections to ensure early detection and management of natural disturbances, vandalism, trespassing, etc.

Species at Risk Officer

This position will involve various recovery planning and protection activities related to species at risk and conservation. Duties may include species at risk recovery planning, compiling and manipulating species at risk occurrence data, and review of species recovery documents, recovery planning projects, and species at risk funding proposals.

Field Biologist

This position will provide the student with valuable experience in a diversity of fields related to terrestrial, wetland and aquatic biology. Duties include conducting field surveys including terrestrial, wetland and aquatic habitat mapping and inventories. Office duties include report preparation, collection and review of background information, data entry, writing field survey results, analyzing data, and researching topics as required.

SAMPLE EMPLOYERS*

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- University of Guelph
- Conservation Authorities

*This shows a sample of recent co-op employers, and employers will vary depending on employer recruitment needs. During a job search, students are encouraged to be actively engaged and are also supported in establishing and maintaining their own personal contacts.

SALARY INFORMATION

Students receive compensation from their employer for co-op work terms. The rate of pay will vary depending on a number of factors including the industry, the student's program of study, and work term level. For your reference, a **Co-operative Education Salary Guide** is available on our website, which provides hourly rates (averages and ranges) for each degree program.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED

- Ability to demonstrate a broad understanding of ecology, evolution, and conservation biology and recognize the origins and current methods of protection of plant and animal diversity.
- Knowledge of ecological and evolutionary factors that influence the persistence of species and communities.
- An understanding of how to manage natural and impacted systems (e.g., invasive species, species at risk) and apply scientific approaches to adaptive management strategies in wildlife conservation.
- Ability to assess the complex interplay between science, socio-economic factors and public opinion in the forging of public policy decisions and the value of interdisciplinary approaches to understanding complex problems.
- Hands-on experience in the field working with plants and animals in a variety of ecosystems, and the ability to assemble, analyze and evaluate biological data.
- Written and oral communication skills for various stakeholders (public, private sector, policy makers, scientists).