FIELD EXPERIENCE in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

Field-based courses expose students in a hands-on manner to procedures and methods used in various natural resource management settings. This may include weekly field trips to visit settings representative of the course subject, with complementary laboratory exercises. All focus on resource management, environmental quality and assessment, and effects of consumption and use on the environment.

Notable Courses

NRES 102 INTRODUCTION TO NRES
This introductory course to the major is required of all new students to the program. It provides the natural science basis for understanding contemporary environmental issues. A day-long Saturday field trip to Allerton Park and Recreation Center in Monticello provides students with their first introduction to the diverse areas of NRES research, including water quality, wildlife management, geographic information systems, and much more.

NRES 285 FIELD EXPERIENCE
For successful completion of the NRES major, each student is required to take a minimum of two NRES 285 Field Experience courses. Each semester, roughly 4-6 courses are available with content offerings that vary with a balance among the four NRES concentrations. Sample sections include Avian Field Research, Fisheries Field Techniques, Storm Water Management, Wetland Delineation, Soil Judging, and Environmental Education, just to name a few.

NRES 415 NATIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION
Students gain skills and experience in identification of native plants. Field and classroom experiences are combined for a mastery in botanical inventory and vegetation sampling methods. Field trips are required in and around campus to survey a variety of plant ecosystems.

From the Students

“"You get this out-of-textbook experience with NRES that I think a lot of other departments don’t offer."
—Ashley Hays

“"Last semester was my first semester here and I was knee-deep in a river my first week. It was a really awesome experience!"
—Joseph Edwards

“"Both of my field courses were extremely hands-on. We were able to work with graduate students and professionals in the industry that has proven to be marketable in the future."
—Mitchell Killough

To learn more, go to NRES.ILLINOIS.EDU or email nres@illinois.edu.