The University

Louisiana Tech University maintains a century-old tradition of academic excellence. The selective admissions program attracts outstanding students. The University enrolls over 10,000 students and offers classes and degrees from five colleges. Louisiana Tech University is located in Ruston, nestled in the piney hills of northern Louisiana. Although a growing city, Ruston still has the charm and character of a small home town. The metropolitan cities of Shreveport and Monroe are within an easy drive on I-20.

THE SCHOOL

Louisiana Tech School of Forestry's main goal is to enhance the social, ecological, and economic value of forest resources for the citizens of Louisiana and the nation through professional education, basic and applied research, and service to the general public and natural resource management professional organizations.

The School of Forestry is situated academically within the College of Applied and Natural Sciences. The School facilities are located on the beautifully landscaped South Campus and are comprised of Reese Hall, Lomax Hall, and the Forestry Lab Building. The school offers professional programs at the undergraduate level. Faculty of the School of Forestry are diverse in education and training. All Forestry and Wildlife courses are taught by tenure track faculty members holding PhDs.

The School has active basic and applied research programs, which contribute to ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially acceptable integrated solutions to natural resource management concerns. Research projects span all areas of natural resource management at the local, regional, state, national, and international scale.

The School of Forestry also addresses current and anticipated needs of forestland stake-holders with a public service agenda offering continuing education and training in areas related to forest and natural resources.

In addition to their academic research and teaching qualifications, faculty backgrounds also reflect experience in private industry, federal government, and academic administration. Faculty research grants and projects employ a number of students who benefit from hands-on experience advancing the science and technology in their fields of study.
Choice of Majors

The School of Forestry offers three degree program majors to choose from. Within each program there is flexibility in the curriculum to meet special interests. Courses in each curriculum are taught by the eleven School of Forestry faculty members, each teaching in their unique areas of expertise. Course structure in each curriculum is designed to meet specific requirements of the respective discipline, yet each curriculum also maintains a fundamental base of course-work common to all areas of natural resource management. Many courses incorporate outdoor classes or laboratory sessions to familiarize students with realistic work environments they might encounter in their chosen profession. Each of the degree options can also serve as a launching point for continued education leading to graduate degrees.

Forestry

The School of Forestry provides a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) for students who desire employment in conservation and management of forest resources, such as timber inventory, site productivity, resource protection, and many other activities carried out in the production of wood and wood fiber. The educational program in forestry leading to the BSF is accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). SAF is a specialized accrediting body and the national professional society for foresters.

The list of career opportunities is impressive and near limitless. Past graduates have found careers with state and federal agencies, private corporations, education, and as forestry consultants.

Wildlife Habitat Management

The Wildlife Habitat Management Program is designed for students who desire scientific knowledge of conservation and management of wildlife in forested settings. Studies emphasize the life history, habitat relationships, and habitat management of wildlife species and communities. Students are trained as managers, biologists, naturalists, and researchers through course work, field laboratories, and practical experience with wildlife professionals.

Students with a degree in Wildlife Habitat Management have diverse careers within state and federal land resource agencies or use the degree as a launching point into graduate studies.

Geographic Information Science (GISc)

The GISc major is both an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental degree program shared with the Department of Social Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts. The concentration in Natural Resources, directed by the School of Forestry, prepares students for rewarding careers in the field of spatial data technologies that more specifically engage environmental issues that pertain to the natural sciences.

The degree program in GISc is primarily concerned with preparing students for a variety of career fields that require answers to fundamental issues arising from geospatial problems. Command of GIS technology allows users to effectively and efficiently analyze vast data sets tied to geography.