

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, BA

Conservation Biology is a science-based major designed to provide students broad training in biological, ecological, and related disciplines most relevant to conservation. The program emphasizes basic knowledge of natural history, whole organism biology, ecological interactions, and field biology. The major is characterized by flexibility with a broad range of opportunities allowing students to tailor the program to their interests. This major appeals to independent students capable of assembling a curriculum that takes maximum advantage of both strong background, diversity, and specialization, as well as the breadth available through an L&S major. The program has a unique appeal to students passionate about conservation biology, from the social scientist to the theoretical ecologist, and empowers students to act as informed citizens of the natural world.

Former UW professors Aldo Leopold and Norman Fassett first initiated this major in the 1940s to prepare individuals for careers as game wardens, ranger naturalists, and museum workers. These opportunities continue and have expanded to include work in environmental education; land restoration and park management; endangered species research and recovery efforts; private conservation organizations and government agencies; and many more. The major is recommended for those seeking a liberal education in the intrinsic values of natural resources and those preparing for graduate study in the rapidly developing field of conservation biology.

INTERNSHIP/FIELD EXPERIENCE

Students in the Conservation Biology major are encouraged to take field courses when possible (including suitable study abroad and field-based programs) and to gain additional experience via research, jobs, and internships. Students who wish to obtain academic credit for internships can consider Inter-LS 260: Internship in Liberal Arts and Sciences (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/ls-finding-an-internship/inter-ls-260-internship-course/>) or arrange **in advance** to set up a Directed Study for research or internships with faculty to propose as elective credit in the major. Students pursuing funding for their experiences can refer to the SuccessWorks Summer Internship Scholarship (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/documents/summer-internship-scholarship-application-faq/>), study abroad resources for funding your experience (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/funding/>), and advising with the Office of Student Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.wisc.edu/services/>).