

Biology Department – Conservation Biology

Students pursuing a BS in Biology: Conservation Biology will become leaders in the fight to preserve biodiversity on our planet.

Global declines in biodiversity and ecosystem health have created a demand for biologists who can solve complex ecological problems and apply integrated approaches to wildlife and habitat management. As a student in the conservation biology program at UMassD, you will gain the expertise needed to meet these societal challenges through a combination of broad-based coursework and innovative hands-on field and laboratory research experiences.

Our conservation Biology Faculty mentors are at the forefront of applying quantitative methods from fields such as applied ecology, animal behavior, microbiology, and evolutionary biology to solve complex real-world problems in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. In addition, many of our faculty engage in a wide variety of conservation-focused community outreach activities across New England aimed at educating the public about what they can do to protect and restore threatened plants, animals and ecosystems. At the end of our program, you will have the training needed to be successful in graduate school and to gain employment with sectors of society seeking to manage, conserve and restore natural environments.

Course Requirements

2-year Biology core

BIO 411 – Conservation Biology

BIO 314 – General Ecology OR
BIO 437 – Evolutionary Biology

BIO 411 – Conservation Genetics

One 300+ Biology Elective

One course from the
Organismal Biology Group

One course from the Taxon-
Specific Group

BIO 499 – Capstone Seminar

One additional 300+ Biology
Elective

Career Opportunities

- Conservation Biologist
- Restoration Biologist
- Wildlife Biologist
- Range Managers
- Soil and Water Conservationist
- Technician

Employers

- National and Private Parks
(e.g. The National Parks Service)
- Government Agencies
(Fish and Wildlife Service,
NOAA, USGS, EPA)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Environmental Consulting
Firms
- Universities
- Non-Profit Conservation
Organizations

