

Placement of FWF Students

Undergraduate Students

Placement information for undergraduate students is very difficult to collect. A large number of students end up being classified as “unknown” in terms of their placement status. Some of these students were unsure about the status of job applications at the time of senior exit interviews during their final semester, but many had simply not started looking for full-time employment. We have been able to update the employment status of some of these students post-graduation, but many remain on the “unknown” list.

Forestry

Of the 125 forestry students that have graduated between 2007 and 2016, about 26% are classified as “unknown or unemployed” after graduation. If we treat unknowns as “not placed”, then the total placement rate for forestry undergraduates is approximately 74%. This total can be further broken down by whether placement was in a forestry or natural resource-related position, and whether the placement was due to employment, or entry into a graduate program (Table 1). Only 7 of the 93 “placed” forestry students (includes those matriculating to graduate programs) took jobs in an area unrelated to forestry or natural resources. Placement into graduate programs for the 2007-2016 period was about 22% for the forestry major.

TABLE 1. FWF undergraduate and graduate program placement summary for students graduating between 2007 and 2016.

	Total # of graduates	Placement Status			
		Related	Non-Related	Graduate Program	Unknown or Unemployed
BS Degree					
Forestry	125	58	7	28	32
Wildlife and Fisheries Science	249	106	5	36	102
MS Degree					
Forestry	36	25	0	8	3
Wildlife and Fisheries Science	64	54	1	8	1
PhD Degree*					
Forestry	28	27	0	0	1
Wildlife and Fisheries Science	13	13	0	0	0

*The department offers a “Natural Resources” doctoral degree that can be informally divided into forestry or wildlife and fisheries science students.

Wildlife and Fisheries Science

Of the 249 wildlife and fisheries science students that have graduated between 2007 and 2016, about 41% are classified as “unknown or unemployed.” Again, if we treat unknowns as “not placed”, then the total placement rate for wildlife and fisheries science undergraduates is approximately 59%. This total can be further broken down by whether placement was in a wildlife and fisheries or other natural resource-related position, and whether the placement was due to employment, or entry into a graduate program (Table 1). Only 5 of the 147 “placed” wildlife and fisheries students took jobs in an unrelated area. Placement into graduate programs for the 2007-2016 period was about 14% for the wildlife and fisheries science major.

Graduate Students

Placement information for graduate students is much more complete (Table 1). Since 2007, only 4 students in each of the two Master’s programs (3 in Forestry; 1 in Wildlife and Fisheries Science) were classified as “unknown or unemployed.” Forestry Master’s students were placed at a rate of 92%, while wildlife and fisheries science Master’s students were placed at a rate of 98% (in both majors, this placement percentage included students who went on to a PhD program). Of all the MS students, only 1 was known to take a position in a field unrelated to natural resources.

The department offers a single PhD major, natural resources, but students in the program can still be disaggregated into those with a forestry emphasis and those with a wildlife and fisheries emphasis. PhD graduates for the natural resources major as a whole have enjoyed 98% placement in a variety of positions: as faculty or post-doctoral researchers with universities, as scientists and managers with government agencies, or with private industry and NGOs.