

WVC Natural Resources Pathway Guide 2025-2026

The Natural Resources pathway at WVC equips students with foundational knowledge of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, practical field skills, and an understanding of the social aspects of resource management. Course recommendations focus on preparing students for transfer to universities while also ensuring they are competitive for entry-level natural resource technician positions. Students in this pathway earn an Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS-DTA). The course selections are flexible and can be adapted to a variety of education and career goals.

Workforce Preparation | Students in this pathway are competitive for a variety of technician-level positions in Natural Resources and Environmental Science, especially within the local area.

Transfer Preparation | Students who generally follow the course recommendations will meet most, if not all, of the general education requirements at four-year institutions and will be major-ready for a wide variety of degrees in ecology, environmental science, environmental studies, natural resources management, and related fields.

The pathway is curated in consultation with local natural resource agencies and organizations.



Want more information? Fill out the Natural Resources Interest Form and an advisor will contact you. Scan or click to access.

<https://forms.office.com/r/eQxW3TyTdg>

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to help prospective and current students, Navigators, and Advisors understand the best options to complete a natural resource / environmental studies focused degree at Wenatchee Valley College. Please consult the WVC Catalog (<https://catalog.wvc.edu>) for the most current degree requirements and course options.

Are you a Running Start student? Running Start students can complete the Pathway with a few modifications. More information and pathway-planning resources specifically for Running Start Students are available on the Running Start webpage (wvc.edu/apply/future-students/running-start/equivalencies-and-degrees)

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PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) outline the knowledge and skills that students acquire through completion of the pathway. The outcomes are reviewed annually by an advisory group comprised of local professionals representing various natural resource areas and agencies.

Students who complete the AAS-DTA pathway in Natural Resources at WVC will be able to:

- Operate tools and equipment commonly used in the natural resources field work.
- Utilize maps, aerial photographs, and land survey abilities in the management of natural resources, including geographic information systems.
- Understand and apply concepts of ecology, conservation, and management for timber, fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
- Identify important plant and animal species for North Central Washington ecosystem.
- Select and apply appropriate field techniques to sample, measure, and monitor timber, fish, and wildlife species and their habitat(s).
- Identify and model interpersonal skills and professional behavior needed for successful job performance.
- Demonstrate the ability to locate opportunities and prepare application materials for state and federal jobs in natural resources.
- Describe biotic and abiotic processes, including human impacts that influence ecosystems and contribute to ecological change.
- Objectively predict, assess, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate perspectives of diverse stakeholders regarding natural resource problems and issues.
- Understand cultural diversity and describe the impact of the global distribution of people and wealth on natural resource use and valuation.

PATHWAY GUIDE | Natural Resources AAS-DTA Pathway

The Natural Resources DTA pathway is a curated pathway mapped to the existing Associates of Arts and Sciences DTA (AAS-DTA) requirements. **Students completing this pathway have significant flexibility in their course selections as they only need to meet the AAS-DTA requirements.** The courses designated below were carefully selected to best prepare students to be major- and employment-ready in the field of Natural Resources. An Academic Advisor is available to assist students in selecting alternatives. A [selection guide](#) and [basis-of-recommendation](#) are available in this packet.

WRITING and QUANTITATIVE SKILLS | 15 Credits

WRITING (10 credits)	QUANTITATIVE/SYMBOLIC (5 credits)
ENGL& 101: Composition (required)	MATH& 146: Intro to Statistics (recommended)
ENGL& 235: Technical Writing (strongly recommended)	-or- MATH& 107: Math in Society (recommended)
-or- ENGL 201, 202, or 203	-or- other quant./sym. course from AAS-DTA requirements

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES | 30 Credits

HUMANITIES (15 credits)	Students may select any courses here that meet the humanities requirements for an AAS-DTA. The courses listed here provide the best match to the knowledge, skills, & abilities a natural resource professional needs as well as those classes that will best prepare a student for transfer to a natural resource related major at a four-year institution.
CMST& 210: Interpersonal Comm. (strongly recommended)	
-or- other humanities from AAS-DTA requirements	
PHIL& 115: Critical Thinking	
-or- other humanities from AAS-DTA requirements	
AIIS 203: Introduction to AIIS Literature [Di]	
-or- other humanities from AAS-DTA requirements	

SOCIAL SCIENCES (15 credits)	Students may select any courses here that meet the social science requirements for an AAS-DTA. The courses listed here provide the best match to the knowledge, skills, & abilities a natural resource professional needs as well as those classes that will best prepare a student for transfer to a natural resource related major at a four-year institution.
GEOG 215: Introduction to GIS (strongly recommended)	
-or- other Soc. Sci from AAS-DTA requirements	
ECON 202: Macro Economics (ECON is strongly recommended)	
-or- other Soc. Sci from AAS-DTA requirements	
AIIS 103: The Indigenous PNW [Di]	
-or- other Soc. Sci from AAS-DTA requirements	

NATURAL SCIENCES & ELECTIVES (45 Credits)

NATURAL SCIENCES (15 credits)	The DTA requires 15 credits of natural sciences from three different areas. At least one must have a lab. The BIOL series is recommended, but other classes may be selected here.
BIOL& 211: Majors Cellular	
BIOL& 212: Majors Plants	
BIOL& 213: Majors Animals	

ELECTIVES: Select 30 credits	
Strongly Recommended	BIOL 103: Salmon and Society [Di]
	ENVS 170: Intro Stream Ecology
	ENVS 230: Fisheries Science and Management
	NATR 160, 220, 240 (all [R]), or other ENVS course(s)
	-or- NATR 198/298: Field Skills in Natural Resources [R] (5 Cr.)
	-or- CWE 196/296 Coop. Work Experience [R] (5 Cr.)
	-or- NATR 108 (3 Cr.) + NATR 198/298 (2+ Cr.)
	BIOL 125: Environmental Science
	NATR 235: Society & Nat. Res. [R] -or- GEOG& 200: Intro to Human Geog
BIOL 217: Intro. to Ornithology	
Other Recommended Options	
BIOL& 221: Majors Ecology/Evolution	Electives are very flexible. The courses listed here provide the best match to the knowledge, skills, & abilities natural resource professionals need as well as classes that will best prepare a student for transfer to a natural resource related major at a four-year institution.
GEOG 150: Intro to Sustainability [Di]	
CHEM& 121: Intro to Chem. -or- CHEM& 110: Chem Concepts	
BCT 284: Project Mgmt [R] -or- BCT 130: Spreadsheets [R]	
By AAS-DTA requirements, no more than 15 credits of courses designated as restricted electives [R] should be taken.	
The DTA requires at least five credits from diversity courses. These are designated [Di] on this guide. Other courses are available. See the WVC catalog and website for more information.	

PLANNING RESOURCE | WVC Courses by Degree Requirement

WRITING 10 credits

A grade of C (2.0) or higher in ENGL 201, 202, 203, or 235 is required for graduation.

English (ENGL) 101 required
English (ENGL) 201, 202, 203, or 235

QUANTITATIVE/SYMBOLIC 5 credits

Mathematics (MATH) 107, 140, 141, 142, 146, 148, 151, 152, 153, 173, 200, 211, 238, 254
Philosophy (PHIL) 120

HUMANITIES 15 credits

Courses must be from 3 different subject areas. Subject areas appear in **bold**. No more than 5 credits of Performance courses, which are underlined below and World Languages.

Amer. Indian Indig. Studies (AIIS) 170 **D**, 203 **D**
Art (ART) 100, 106, 107, 110, 111, 113, 116, 117, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 150, 151, 152, 154, 155, 201, 202, 203, 204 **D**, 206, 208, 210, 211, 212, 213, 217, 218, 219, 220, 222, 224, 225, 233, 234, 235, 236, 250, 256
Chicano Studies (CHST) 120 **D**
Communications (CMST) 101, 130, 210, 220
Drama (DRMA) 101
English (ENGL) 111, 112, 113, 135, 215, 226, 240, 247 **D**, 250, 255 **D**, 275, 276
Humanities (HUMN) 101, 116, 117, 118, 141, 201, 202, 206, 207, 242 **D**
Journalism (JOUR) 101
Music (MUS) 100, 105, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, 131, 132, 133, 161, 170, 172, 173, 174, 175, 177, 210, 211, 212, 221, 241, 242, 243, 261, 270, 272, 273, 274, 275, 277
Philosophy (PHIL) 101, 105, 115, 120, 201, 202, 203, 210, 211, 275
Theater Arts (THRT) 165, 170, 265
World Languages
American Sign Language (ASL) 121, 122, 123, 131, 221, 222, 223
Japanese (JAPN) 121, 122, 123, 221, 222, 223
Native American Languages (NAL) 101, 102, 103, 111, 112, 113, 121, 122, 123, 204, 205, 206, 214, 215, 216, 224, 225, 226
Spanish (SPAN) 121, 122, 123, 221, 222, 223, 231, 232, 233

NATURAL SCIENCES 15 credits

Courses must be from 3 different subject areas. Subject areas appear in **bold**. At least 1 course must include a lab, which are underlined below.

Anthropology (ANTH) 205
Astronomy (ASTR) 101
Biology General (BIOL) 100, 126, 185, 211, 218, 260
Botany Biology (BIOL) 186, 212, 216, 230
Chemistry (CHEM) 106, 110, 121, 131, 161, 162, 163, 261, 262, 263
Computer Science (CSC) 142
Environment Biology (BIOL) 103 **D**, 106, 125, 127, 221; (ENVS) 170
Oceanography (OCEA) 100
Geology (GEOL) 101, 107, 208, 218
Mathematics (MATH) 107, 140, 141, 142, 146, 148, 151, 152, 153, 200, 211, 238, 254
Meteorology (METR) 110, 210
Nutrition (NUTR) 101, 105, 106, 107, 202
Physical Education (PEH) 286, 288
Physics (PHYS) 100, 114, 115, 116, 221, 222, 223
Science/Engineering/Technology/Math (STEM) 201, 203
Zoology Biology (BIOL) 213, 217, 241, 242

SOCIAL SCIENCES 15 credits

Courses must be from 3 different subject areas. Subject areas appear in **bold**.

Amer. Indian Indig. Studies (AIIS) 102 **D**, 103 **D**, 150 **D**, 202 **D**, 209 **D**, 210 **D**, 240 **D**
Anthropology (ANTH) 100 **D**, 204, 206 **D**, 207, 217, 220 **D**
Chicano Studies (CHST) 112 **D**, 115 **D**
Early Childhood Education (ECED) 105
Economics (ECON) 101, 201, 202
Education (EDUC) 115
Geography (GEOG) 100 **D**, 102 **D**, 150 **D**, 207 **D**, 215
History (HIST) 116, 117, 118, 146, 147 **D**, 202 **D**, 214, 215 **D**, 219, 230 **D**, 238, 240 **D**, 260 **D**, 261 **D**, 271, 274, 275
Political Science (POLS) 101, 202, 203 **D**, 205 **D**, 206 **D**
Psychology (PSYC) 100, 102, 105, 200, 202, 203, 204, 205, 215, 220, 245
Sociology (SOC) 101, 110, 135 **D**, 151 **D**, 201, 203, 225

D Diversity Requirement:
Students seeking an AAS-DTA degree from WVC need to take at least one diversity course as part of the 90 credits required to graduate. The diversity classes are identified by the **D** symbol. Visit www.wvc.edu/DR for more information.

ELECTIVES 30 credits

There are 2 types of electives: General & Restricted.

General Electives are normally accepted at 4-year institutions whether or not an AAS degree is earned. In addition to the list below, all courses listed in the areas of writing, quantitative/symbolic, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences may be used as general electives. No more than 3 Physical Education (PEH/PEHR) activity credits are allowed in this degree.

Accounting (ACCT) 201, 202, 203
Agriculture (AGRI) 101, 108
Business (BUS) 101, 201, 240, 241
Chemical Dependency Studies (CDS) 101
Computer Science (CSC) 110, 141, 210, 215, 243
Criminal Justice (CJ) 101, 105, 106, 110
Education (EDUC) 204, 210
Engineering (ENGR) 214
Environmental Science (ENVS) 230, 231
Mathematics (MATH) 171, 172, 195
Music (MUS) 145, 146
Physical Education Activities (PEH) 101, 102, 103, 104, 110, 111, 112, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 130, 133, 134, 142, 143, 150, 155, 161, 162, 226, 261, 262
Physical Education Recreation Activities (PEHR) 105, 106, 107, 144
Physical Education Professional (PEH) 180, 181, 182, 189, 250, 283, 284, 285, 287, 289
Physical Education Recreation (PEHR) 201, 202, 204

Restricted Electives do not normally transfer to 4-year institutions unless they are included in the AAS degree. No more than 15 restricted credits can be included in the AAS degree. Restricted electives are credit courses numbered 100 or higher that are not listed elsewhere on this page and that come from the following departments.

ACCT, AGRI, AUTO, BCT, BTEC, BUS, BUSA, CDS, CJ, CMAA, CSC, CTS, CULI, CWE, ECE, ECED&, EDAPP, EDUC, EDUC&, ELEC, ELTRO, EMT, ENGR, ESLI, ESRT, FS, HCA, HLTH, INDT, LIBR, MA, MACH, MANU, MATH, MLT, NATR, NURS, NUTR, OCED, PCOL, PEHR, PHARM, RADT, RCLS, READ, SDS, TGM, WELD

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Course Selections

The AAS-DTA pathway is very flexible* and you may want to make some alternative selections. Here are some things to consider as you apply this map to your own goals.

Natural resource professionals use scientific knowledge in their work and need a broad understanding of many concepts such as ecology, biology, basic chemistry, and more. Many natural resource professionals eventually develop an area of specialization (fisheries, wildlife, habitat, etc.), but it is usually not necessary to define that while you are in college. Instead, focus on gaining broad skills and experience (summer internships or seasonal jobs can be a great way to gain experience) and developing a sense of your own interests.

The biology series (BIOL& 211, 212, 213) is strongly recommended for all students.

This will transfer directly to four-year institutions and fulfill the year of major-level biology that is required for most natural resource related majors. It is also a common requirement for entry-level employment at state and federal agencies. **You should take BIOL&211 in your first year if possible. It is generally offered every quarter.**

If you know where you want to transfer, review the specific requirements and factor those requirements into your course selections at WVC. The program advisor can help you with this. You should also consider your own interests; college helps prepare you for work, but it is also an opportunity to grow in personally meaningful ways as well.

Experience Matters

Experience is critical for natural resource professionals. You can gain a lot of transferable (soft skills) through any job, but you will want to get some applied experience as well. Many students work as technicians during the summer. If you are not able to secure applied employment, consider volunteering with a professional – even if it is just for a few days. The program advisor(s) have network connections you can use and often share student-focused opportunities for internships and employment.

We are Here to Help!

WVC has a variety of resources to support you while you are a student. These include financial aid and scholarships, academic supports (Math Center), support programs (TRiO SSS, MESA), and more. You can find more information on the WVC website, the Natural Resources Advising Canvas group, or by talking with a program advisor.

PLANNING RESOURCE | Basis of Course Recommendations for Pathway

	Recommended Course Selection	Degree Requirement/Area	Rational for Recommendation		
			Career-Focused Knowledge, Skill, Ability (KSA)	Identified as High-Value KSA?	Major Ready for Transfer
Writing	ENGL& 101: Composition (required)	Writing			X
	ENGL& 235: Technical Writing (strongly recommended) -or- ENGL 201, 202, or 203		X	Yes	X
Quantitative	MATH& 146: Intro to Statistics (recommended) -or- MATH& 107: Math in Society (recommended)	Quantitative	X		X
			X		
Humanities	CMST& 210: Interpersonal Comm (strongly recommended)	Humanities Communications	X	Yes	X
	PHIL& 115: Critical Thinking (recommended)	Humanities Philosophy	X		
	AIS 203: Introduction to AIS Literature [Di]	Humanities AIS	X		
Social Sciences	GEOG 215: Introduction to GIS (strongly recommended)	Soc-Sci Geography	X	Yes	
	ECON 202: Macro Economics (ECON is strongly recommended)	Soc-Sci Economics			X
	AIS 103: The Indigenous PNW [Di]	Soc-Sci AIS	X	Yes	
Natural Sciences	BIOL& 211: Majors Cellular	Nat-Sci General Lab	X		X
	BIOL& 212: Majors Plants	Nat-Sci Botany Lab	X		X
	BIOL& 213: Majors Animals	Nat-Sci Zoology Lab	X		X
Electives	Strongly Recommended Options				
	BIOL 103: Salmon and Society [Di]	Nat-Sci Enviro Diversity	X	Yes	
	ENVS 170: Intro Stream Ecology	Nat-Sci Enviro Lab	X	Yes	
	ENVS 230: Fisheries Sci and Mgmt	Elective	X	Yes	
	NATR 198/298: Field Skills in Natural Resources [R] (2-5 cr)	Restricted Elective	X	Yes	
	BIOL 125: Environmental Science	Nat-Sci Environment Lab	X	Yes	
	NATR 235: Society & Nat Res [R] -or- GEOG& 200: Intro to Human Geog	Elective -or- Social Science	X	Yes	
	BIOL 217: Intro. to Ornithology	Nat-Sci Zoology Lab	X	Yes	
	NATR 108 (3 cr), 160, 220, 240 (all are [R]) or other ENVS course	Elective or Restrict Elective	X	Varies	
	Additional Recommendations				
	BIOL& 221: Majors Ecology/Evolution	Nat-Sci Environment Lab	X		
	GEOG 150: Intro to Sustainability [Di]	Soc-Sci Geog Diversity	X		
	CHEM& 121: Intro to Chem. -or- CHEM& 110: Chem Concepts	Nat-Sci Chem 121 has Lab			X
	BCT 284: Project Mgmt [R] -or- BCT 130: Spreadsheets [R]	Restricted Elective	X	Yes	

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) were identified in data-based needs assessment for Natural Resources profession and are reviewed by a Program Advisory Group made up of local industry professionals. High-Value designation was based on local employer data for KSAs identified.