RANGELAND ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT - BS, RANGELAND RESOURCES OPTION

Students majoring in Rangeland Ecology and Management are taught to integrate knowledge and technology in a systems approach to manage land for sustainable utilization of natural resources. Emphasis is placed on conservation and maintenance of biological diversity in wet to arid environments and sustainable production, conservation and function of land. Rangelands comprise approximately 50% of the land area of the United States and the world. Natural resources on rangelands provide many products and values for society including: livestock grazing, habitat for game and non-game wildlife, water for urban and agricultural uses, recreational opportunities, minerals, oil and gas. The expansiveness and diversity of rangelands require that knowledge and technology be drawn from numerous disciplines.

Employment opportunities are diverse. They include all aspects of natural resource management, including ranch management, environmental consulting, conservation and natural resource planning on private lands and with state and federal agencies. Students also find employment in agribusiness sales, marketing, agricultural finance real estate, consulting and reclamation. Students can also pursue professional careers in teaching agricultural science.

Two options in the Rangeland Ecology and Management curriculum provide the opportunity for specialization in a minor field.

Rangeland Resources Option

Designed for students preparing for careers in the private, state and federal sectors in the area of natural resources conservation and management. It also provides good preparation for graduate study leading to positions in extension, teaching, research and consulting. It allows maximum flexibility to orient a degree program towards specific career interests. Students are encouraged to develop an emphasis area by selecting 15 hours of directed elective courses in related disciplines. Several suggested emphasis areas for the Rangeland Resources Option follow.

Emphasis Areas

Ecology

Designed for students to explore and specialize in a diverse array of ecological topics. They study plants and animals and the ecological principles essential for effective conservation, management and restoration of the land and associated natural resources. They are prepared for careers in resource monitoring, management and conservation with state and federal agencies and the private sector.

Environmental Science

Designed for students preparing for professional careers in environmental management. The coursework includes a basic foundation of ecological sciences, plant taxonomy and rangeland management with emphasis on plants, water and soils. Job opportunities are available in environmental consulting firms, public utility companies, municipalities and federal environmental agencies. The curriculum provides a good foundation for students planning to pursue graduate studies in watershed management, environmental sciences, pollution control or waste management.

Prec veterinary Medicine

Prepares students for admission to the professional program in veterinary medicine. Students planning to work in large animal practice would benefit from studies in rangeland ecology and management.

Range/Soil Conservation

Designed to qualify students as range management specialists or soil conservationists with the federal government. The curriculum will provide students with competitive ratings with federal Civil Service for positions with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Various electives and work experience may be used to increase the rating score. Job opportunities are also available in private and state organizations.

Teaching

For students majoring in rangeland ecology and management who wish to teach. Directed electives may be chosen so that, following this curriculum, the student is eligible to enter the induction year as a teacher of agricultural science under the Texas Education Agency Plan. Off-campus student teaching is required.

Watershed Resources

For students preparing for a professional career in watershed management. Graduates qualify for employment as range management specialists and soil conservationists or, with proper selection of electives, as hydrologists. Opportunities are also available in environmental consulting firms, public utility companies, land reclamation firms, municipalities, secondary school education and private land management.

Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Semester Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESSM 201</td>
<td>Exploring Ecosystem Science and Management</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 301</td>
<td>Wildland Watershed Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSM 306</td>
<td>Plant Functional Ecology and Adaptation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ESSM 311</td>
<td>or Biogeochemistry and Global Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 313</td>
<td>Vegetation Sampling Methods and Designs in Ecosystems</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 351/RENR 405</td>
<td>Geographic Information Systems for Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 481</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
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<td>RENR 205</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCSC 301</td>
<td>Soil Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSM 302</td>
<td>Wildland Plants of North America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSM 303</td>
<td>Agrostology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ESSM 30</td>
<td>or Rangeland Plant Taxonomy</td>
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<td>ESSM 314</td>
<td>Principles of Rangeland Management Around the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
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<td>ESSM 315</td>
<td>Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 316</td>
<td>Range Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 317</td>
<td>Vegetation Management</td>
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<td>ESSM 415</td>
<td>Range Analysis and Management Planning</td>
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<td>or RENR 410 or Ecosystem Management</td>
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**Rangeland Resources Option**

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<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCSC 310</td>
<td>Soil Morphology and Interpretations</td>
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Select two from:

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<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGEC 325</td>
<td>Principles of Farm and Ranch Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGEC 350</td>
<td>Environmental and Natural Resource Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 318</td>
<td>Coupled Social and Ecological Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 404</td>
<td>Changing Natural Resource Policy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSM 406</td>
<td>Natural Resources Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>RENR 470</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
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Directed electives

Electives 6

**University Core Curriculum**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>AGEC 105</td>
<td>Introduction to Agricultural Economics</td>
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Select one from:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 101</td>
<td>Botany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 113</td>
<td>Essentials in Biology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HORT 201</td>
<td>Horticultural Science and Practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; HORT 202</td>
<td>and Horticultural Science and Practices Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 101</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Chemistry I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CHEM 111</td>
<td>and Fundamentals of Chemistry Laboratory I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RENR 215</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Ecology-Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

American history electives

Communication electives

Creative arts elective

Government/Political science electives

Language, philosophy and culture elective

Mathematics electives (MATH prefix required)

Total Semester Credit Hours 120

1 To be selected in consultation with an advisor.
2 The Graduation requirements include a requirement for 6 hours of international and cultural diversity courses. A course satisfying a Core category, a college/department requirement, or a free elective can be used to satisfy this requirement. See academic advisor.
3 Credit by examination may be used to substitute for 3 hours of POLS 206 or POLS 207.