Twin Cities Campus

Wildlife Care and Handling

Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

- Program Type: Undergraduate free-standing minor
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2017
- Required credits in this minor: 19 to 27
- The capstone of the curriculum is an externship, FW 4625, a resident, professional experience in which students work hands-on with wild animals. Animal care in this sense might include wildlife research focused on capture and handling, rehabilitation, or permanently- or temporarily-captive wild animals. The residency might mean that students are working in a facility (e.g., zoo, nature center, sanctuary, rehabilitation facility, rescue center, wildlife care facility) or might mean that the student travels to provide care (e.g., working with a DNR wildlife field crew). The externship must provide hands-on experience with care of wild animals, and must involve at least some understanding of the mission and overall operation of the facility or organization. The externship takes place in a wildlife handling facility off campus; that might be in Minnesota or many other places in the world.

This minor enables students to develop an understanding of wildlife care and handling. It will be especially attractive to students in in programs such as wildlife, animal science, biology, natural resources, and environmental studies. Students become acquainted with diagnosis, animal handling, ethics, and population-level concerns of animal care. Any direct involvement with medical care will be under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Students interested in the minor should declare through the CFANS Student Services Office.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

Basic biology is a prerequisite for courses in the minor.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

Required prerequisites

Prerequisites

BIOL 1009 - General Biology [BIOL] (4.0 cr)
or BIOL 2002 *{Inactive}*[BIOL] (6.0 cr)

Minor Requirements

Core program

Three courses are required (9 credits).
VPM 2400 - Managed Captive Wildlife (3.0 cr)
FW 4629 - Wildlife Care and Handling Externship (3.0 cr)
FW 4102 - Principles of Conservation Biology [ENV] (3.0 cr)
or FW 4103 - Principles of Wildlife Management (3.0 cr)

Animal Course

Take 3 or more credit(s) from the following:
- ANSC 2401 - Animal Nutrition (3.0 cr)
- EEB 4329 - Primate Ecology and Social Behavior (3.0 cr)
- FW 4401 - Fish Physiology and Behavior (3.0 cr)
- VBS 2100 - Companion Animal Anatomy (3.0 cr)
- VCS 4606 - Small Animal Management (3.0 cr)
- EEB 3411 - Introduction to Animal Behavior (3.0 cr)

or EEB 3412W - Introduction to Animal Behavior, Writing Intensive [WI] (4.0 cr)

Advanced Course

Take 3 or more credit(s) from the following:
- FW 3925 - Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife Management (3.0 cr)
- HORT 4601 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
- VPM 4400 - Diseases in free-ranging and captive wildlife (3.0 cr)
- **Wildlife handling**

An approved professional training course in wildlife care and handling may be substituted for FW 5625 and 1 credit of FW 4391.

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Substitutions are approved by petition. To qualify for approval, a training course must include at least 30 hours of instruction in a field setting, and at least one third of the instruction must be handson. A wide range of such professional courses is available. Contact the minor coordinator for guidance.
•FW 5625 - Wildlife Handling and Immobilization for Research and Management (2.0 cr)
FW 4391 *{Inactive}*(1.0 - 5.0 cr)

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