HYBRIDONLINE MASTER'S IN FORESTRY



Department of Forestry
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OVERVIEW

HYBRID ONLINE MS

The Michigan State University Department of Forestry Hybrid Online MS program is a professional degree designed for individuals with a Bachelor's degree (BA or BS) in a field other than forestry who would like to pursue a career in forestry. The program is uniquely tailored to learners that need flexibility, with the majority of the courses delivered in an online format. The structure of the program can accommodate students with rigid schedules and personal and professional commitments.

Forestry students at Michigan State University are part of a legacy established in 1902 that has shaped vibrant forest ecosystems all over the world. To ensure healthy forests for our future, MSU Forestry provides the education for forestry professionals to optimize the balance among conserving forest ecosystems, the demand for forest products, and other forest ecosystem services, guided by leading faculty in a top 10 forestry program globally (QS Rankings, Agriculture & Forestry category 2021).

The structure of the hybrid online MS program includes:

- One intensive, field-based in-person short course (nine days)
- A series of asynchronous, online courses, with guided exercises and projects for you to complete in forests near you
- A final, intensive, in-person capstone project and examination (nine days)

While working on your degree, you will learn how to sustainably manage forests while considering landowner and societal values and goals. The topics include tree biology/identification, forest measurements/sampling, silviculture, forest ecology, human dimensions of forestry, GIS (geographic information systems), forest economics and management.

The field of forestry is very broad and includes a wide variety of career paths. Some of the more common job possibilities for students immediately after graduation are forester, silviculturist, forest restoration manager, forestry consultant, carbon analyst, and forest certification specialist.

To enhance professional development and networks and to promote learning outside the classroom, all active Hybrid MS students have access to a fellowship of up to $1,000 to help defray the costs of attending a professional meeting. We encourage students to attend a National Society of American Foresters conference if possible because it is a large meeting with good opportunities for networking and for participation in workshops and other events that meet diverse interests. Furthermore, Hybrid MS and all students are encouraged to attend MSU Forestry's reception for alumni and current Department members, many of whom are attending the meeting. Other potential meetings include International Society of Arboriculture, Association of Consulting Foresters, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and SAF Rising Professionals Conference. Students can use these funds anytime between completion of FOR 810 and graduation.

CONTACT

For more information on the program, please contact Annie Smith at FOR.hybridMS@msu.edu or visit us online at **for.msu.edu/hybrid**.

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(517) 355-0090 FOR.hybridMS@msu.edu | for.msu.edu

MSU Forestry
480 Wilson Rd, Room 126
East Lansing MI 48824-6402

REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete FOR 810, an intensive, off-campus, in-person field course offered in August of each year. This course will run for 9 days in length, will require travel to Michigan and will involve extensive field work and dormitory style housing.

FOR 810	Professional Forestry Field Techniques	2

2. Complete all of the following asynchronous online courses (22 credits):

FOR 812	Forest Measurements and Inventory	2
FOR 814	Tree Biology	2
FOR 816	Forest Ecosystem Processes	2
FOR 818	Advanced Silviculture	2
FOR 419 (Sec. 730)	Applications of Geographic Information Systems to Natural Resources Management	4
FOR 466 (Sec. 731)	Natural Resource Policy	3
FOR 468 (Sec. 730)	Forest Management Planning*	3
FOR 833	Human Dimensions of Forest Carbon Management	3
FOR 838	Forest Resource Economics and Finance*	1

3. Complete one of the following asynchronous online courses (3 credits)
Check the website for most up to date elective listings

FOR 471 (Sec. 730)	Consulting Forestry**	3
FOR 831	Forest Biogeochemistry and Climate Change	3
FOR 835	Forest Carbon Policy, Economics and Finance	3
FOR 837	Measurement and Monitoring of Forest Carbon	3
FOR 845 (Sec. TBD)	Nature & Health***	3
FOR 861	Applied Urban Forest Management	3
FOR 875	R Programming for Data Sciences	3

4. Complete 1 credit of internship experience

FOR 493	Professional Internship in Forestry	1

5. Complete a non-thesis capstone group project through enrollment in FOR 898 Master's Professional Project (2 cr). This is an intensive, off-campus, in-person field course offered in May of each year. Upon completion of the project, a written report and oral presentation must be delivered. This course will run for 9 days, will require travel to Michigan and will involve extensive field work and dormitory style housing.

6. Pass a final written and field skills examination administered as part of FOR 898. One re-examination may be scheduled at the discretion of the guidance committee. The final examination must be passed within five calendar years from the date of enrollment in the first course included for degree certification.

* Ordered in typical sequence; FOR 838 & FOR 468 are required to be taken together in the same semester.

** Prerequisite: FOR 419 or concurrently Requirements: Field trip required. As part of the class, you will need to attend an Association of Consulting Foresters meeting/conference. Also, as part of the course, you will be required to go to a local courthouse and get familiar with deeds, easements, surveys, etc.

*** Requirements: Please note that this course requires synchronous online participation via Zoom on Mondays from 12:40–3:30 p.m. ET. Active participation is expected, with flexible arrangements for occasional experiential activities (e.g., field trips), which may be completed virtually or independently.

SEE REVERSE FOR 1, 2, 3 AND 4 YEAR PATH SUGGESTIONS.

1, 2, 3, 4 YEAR PATH EXAMPLES

HYBRIDONLINE MS

Students can complete requirements at a pace that works for them. Here are examples of how to earn the M.S. in 1, 2, 3, or 4 years.

	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS
Year 1				
August	FOR 810	FOR 810	FOR 810	FOR 810
Fall, 1st half	FOR 812 FOR 814 FOR 831/835/861/875*	FOR 812 FOR 814	FOR 812 FOR 814	FOR 812
Fall, 2nd half	FOR 816 FOR 818 FOR 831/835/861/875*	FOR 816	FOR 816	
Spring	FOR 419 FOR 466 FOR 468 FOR 833 FOR 838 FOR 471/837/845* FOR 493**	FOR 419 FOR 466 FOR 493**	FOR 419 FOR 466	FOR 419
May	FOR 898			
Year 2				
Fall, 1st half		FOR 831/835/861/875*	FOR 831/835/861/875*	FOR 814
Fall, 2nd half		FOR 818 FOR 831/835/861/875*	FOR 831/835/861/875*	FOR 493**
Spring		FOR 468 FOR 833 FOR 838 FOR 471/837/845*	FOR 468 FOR 833 FOR 838	FOR 471/837/845*
May		FOR 898		
Year 3				
Fall, 1st half			FOR 493**	FOR 831/835/861/875*
Fall, 2nd half			FOR 818	FOR 816 FOR 831/835/861/875*
Spring			FOR 471/835/837/845*	FOR 466 FOR 468 FOR 838
May			FOR 898	
Year 4				
Fall, 1st half				FOR 831/835/861/875*
Fall, 2nd half				FOR 818 FOR 831/835/861/875*
Spring				FOR 833
May				FOR 898

*Choose at least one of FOR 471, FOR 831, FOR 835, FOR 837, FOR 845, FOR 861 or FOR 875.
** FOR 493, Professional Internship, has flexible scheduling, including summer.
NOTE: 814 must be taken before 816 and 818; 816 before OR concurrent with 818; 468 and 838 must be taken together in the same semester

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