

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT (BS)

Justice and Security

Overview

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Conservation Law Enforcement (CLE) at Plymouth State University aims to prepare students for careers in environmental protection, natural resource management, and law enforcement. This interdisciplinary program will integrate coursework in criminal justice, environmental science, and public policy to equip graduates with the necessary knowledge and skills to enforce conservation laws and promote sustainable resource management.

The program responds to the increasing demand for conservation law enforcement professionals due to expanding environmental challenges and evolving regulatory landscapes. Through a combination of classroom instruction, field experiences, and partnerships with state and federal agencies, students will gain practical skills in law enforcement techniques, wildlife management, and environmental protection. Graduates will be well-positioned for careers as conservation officers, park rangers, environmental investigators, and related roles.

Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
AP 2500	Natural History and Ecology for Adventure Educators	3
ESP 2305	Foundations of Environmental Policy (WRCO)	4
AP 1000	Outdoor Skills for Conservation Law	1
AP 3400	Wilderness First Responder	4
AP 3010	Land Search and Rescue	3
BI 3240	Conservation (DICO,GACO)	3
CJ 3005	Criminal Investigation	4
CJ 3450	Technology in criminal justice (TECO,WRCO)	4
CJ 3700	Conservation Law Enforcement	4
GE 2050	GIS I: Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (QRCO,TECO)	4
Group A		
Complete 4 credits from the following:		4
CJ 2045	Criminal Procedure	
CJ 2090	Criminal Law	
CJ 2025	Police and society (Group B)	
Group B		
Complete 10-12 credits from the following (at least 7 credits must be 10-12 upper level)		
BI 1120	Biological Science II	
BI 2040	Vertebrate Zoology	
BI 3260	Freshwater Ecology	
ESP 4305	Land Conservation Techniques	
ESP 4310	Advanced Conservation Ecology	
ESP 4325	Decision Making in Environmental Management	
ESP 3510	Advanced Field Techniques <small>Course is repeatable up to 8 credits</small>	

Group C		
Complete three credits from the following:		3
AP 3410	Whitewater Kayaking	
AP 3810	Alpine Mountaineering	
AP 3310	Lead Rock Climbing	
AP 2400		
Pathways-HoME General Education		
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
Writing Foundation Course:		
EN 1400	Composition	4
Quantitative Foundation:		
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	MA1500 or higher, or equivalency	3-4
Pathway Certificate (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) *		15-16
Additional Pathway Credits (0 if in major)		0-9
Electives		31-35
IS 4220	Signature Project (INCO,INCP)	4
Total Credits		120

* To complete the Pathways HoME General Education program, a student must complete 24 credits of Pathways courses, including those that lead to a Pathways Certificate. 15-16 credits of a Pathway Certificate must be in a single Pathway skill and must include at least 8 credits of upper-division courses. Students may complete the remaining 8-9 credits with Pathway classes taken inside the major (double-counting) or outside of it. Students in this major may earn multiple Pathway Certificates.

Recommended Course Sequence

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
EN 1400	Composition	4
AP 2500	Natural History and Ecology for Adventure Educators	3
AP 1000	Outdoor Skills for Conservation Law	1
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SSDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/)		4
Credits		16
Spring		
ESP 2305	Foundations of Environmental Policy (WRCO)	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SSDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/)		4
Choose 1 Group A Elective Course:		4

CJ 2045	Criminal Procedure	
CJ 2090	Criminal Law	
CJ 2025	Police and society	
Credits		15-16

Year Two**Fall**

CJ 3700	Conservation Law Enforcement	4
GE 2050	GIS I: Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (QRCO,TECO)	4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SSDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/)		4
Elective		3-4

Credits 15-16**Spring**

CJ 3005	Criminal Investigation	4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SSDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/)		4
Choose 1 Group B Elective Course: <small>At least 7 credit hours of Group B, must be upper division</small>		3-4

BI 1120	Biological Science II	
BI 2040	Vertebrate Zoology	
BI 3260	Freshwater Ecology	
ESP 3510	Advanced Field Techniques	
ESP 4305	Land Conservation Techniques	
ESP 4310	Advanced Conservation Ecology	
ESP 4325	Decision Making in Environmental Management	
Elective		3-4

Credits 14-16**Year Three****Fall**

WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Direction	4
INCP (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP)	Integrated Capstone	4

Choose 1 Group B Elective Course: At least 7 credits of Group B Electives must be upper level 3-4

BI 1120	Biological Science II	
BI 2040	Vertebrate Zoology	
BI 3260	Freshwater Ecology	
ESP 3510	Advanced Field Techniques	
ESP 4305	Land Conservation Techniques	
ESP 4310	Advanced Conservation Ecology	
ESP 4325	Decision Making in Environmental Management	

Elective 3-4

Credits 14-16**Spring**

AP 3400	Wilderness First Responder	4
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CJ 3450	Technology in criminal justice (TECO,WRCO)	4
Elective		3-4
Elective		3-4

Credits 14-16**Year Four****Fall**

BI 3240	Conservation (DICO,GACO)	3
Choose 1 Group B Elective Course: <small>At least 7 credit hours of Group B Electives must be upper division</small>		3-4

BI 1120	Biological Science II	
BI 2040	Vertebrate Zoology	
BI 3260	Freshwater Ecology	
ESP 3510	Advanced Field Techniques	
ESP 4305	Land Conservation Techniques	
ESP 4310	Advanced Conservation Ecology	
ESP 4325	Decision Making in Environmental Management	

Elective 3-4

Elective 3-4

Credits 12-15**Spring**

AP 3010	Land Search and Rescue	3
Choose 1 Group C Elective Course: <small>Can be swapped with Group B from Fall, depending on choice of course.</small>		3

AP 2400		
AP 3310	Lead Rock Climbing	
AP 3410	Whitewater Kayaking	
AP 3810	Alpine Mountaineering	

Elective 3-4

Elective 3-4

Credits 12-14**Total Credits 112-125**

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Conservation Law Enforcement will:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of conservation laws, regulations, and enforcement strategies.
- 2) Apply principles of environmental science and ecology to resource management and law enforcement practices.
- 3) Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills related to conservation crime investigation and public safety.
- 4) Gain proficiency in law enforcement techniques, including conflict resolution, report writing, and evidence collection.
- 5) Engage in ethical decision-making and community outreach to foster public support for conservation efforts.
- 6) Complete hands-on field training and internships with conservation law enforcement agencies.

Career Pathways

Graduates of this program will be well-prepared for careers as:

- 1) State Conservation Officers (Fish & Game Wardens)

- 2) Federal Wildlife Officers (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Forest Service)
- 3) Marine Patrol and Fisheries Enforcement Officers
- 4) Environmental Compliance Investigators
- 5) Park Rangers and National Resource and Refuge Managers