

Educational Requirements for Rangeland Management Specialists

Updated 13Jan20

The undergraduate program in Rangeland Resources at Utah State University covers the ecology and management of grassland, shrubland, woodland, riparian/wetland, and tundra ecosystems, with an emphasis on the western USA. A wide variety of subjects, including biophysical sciences, resource policy and economics, human-environment relationships, and resource assessment and planning, are integrated into a broad curriculum. The undergraduate program is accredited by the Society for Range Management, and it meets federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) requirements for the Rangeland Management Series (GS-454).

OPM Rangeland Management Educational Requirements

<http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/standards/IORs/gs0400/0454.htm>

OPM Requirements (29Aug19)	USU Rangeland Resources Undergraduate Program Required Courses
<p>Degree Requirement: range management; or a related discipline that included at least 42 semester hours in a combination of the plant, animal, and soil sciences, and natural resources management, as follows:</p>	
<p><i>Range Management</i> – at least 18 semester hours of course work in range management, including courses in such areas as basic principles of range management, range plants, range ecology, range inventories and studies, range improvements, and ranch or rangeland planning.</p>	<p>WATS 2220 General Ecology (3 sem. hrs.) WILD 1800 Introduction to GIS (3 sem. hrs.) WILD 3800 Wildland Plants & Ecosystems (4 sem. hrs.) WILD 3830 Rangeland Plants & Taxonomy (3 sem. hrs.) WILD 3850 Vegetation & Habitat Mgt. (3 sem. hrs.) WILD 4000 Principles of Range Mgt. (3 sem. hrs.) WILD 4750 Monitoring and Assessment in Nat. Res. Mgt. (4 sem. hrs.) WILD 4910 Assessment and Synthesis in NR Sci. (3 sem. hrs.) TOTAL = 26 semester hours</p>
<p><i>Directly Related Plant, Animal, and Soil Sciences</i> – at least 15 semester hours of directly related courses in the plant, animal, and soil sciences, including at least one course in each of these three specific areas, i.e., plant, animal, and soil sciences. Courses in such areas as plant taxonomy, plant physiology, plant ecology, animal nutrition, livestock production, and soil morphology or soil classification are acceptable.</p>	<p>Plant science courses: WILD 2400 Wildland Resource Techniques (1.5 sem. hrs.) WILD 3810 Plant & Animal Populations (1.5 sem. hrs.) <i>One of these courses is required:</i> BIOL 4400 Plant Physiology (4 sem. hrs.) PSC 3500 Structure & Function of Plants (3 sem. hrs.) PSC 5550 Fundamentals of Integrated Weed Management (4 sem. hrs.) Animal science courses: WILD 2400 Wildland Resource Techniques (1.5 sem. hrs.) WILD 3810 Plant & Animal Populations (1.5 sem. hrs.) <i>One of these courses is required:</i> ADVS 2080 Beef and Dairy Herd Health and Production Practices (3 sem. hrs.) ADVS 2090 Sheep Production Practices (2 sem. hrs.) Soil science courses: PSC 3000 Fundamentals of Soil Science (4 sem. hrs.) PSC 5130 Soil Genesis, Morphology, and Classification (4 sem. hrs.) TOTAL = 15 – 17 semester hours</p>

<p><i>Related Resource Management Studies</i> - At least 9 semester hours of course work in related resource management subjects, including courses in such areas as wildlife management, watershed management, natural resource or agricultural economics, forestry, agronomy, forages, and outdoor recreation management.</p>	<p>WATS 3700 Fund. of Watershed Science (3 sem. hrs.) ENVS 3010 Fund. Nat. Res. & Env'tl. Policy (3 sem. hrs.) ENVS 4000 Human Dimensions of Nat. Res. Mgt. (3 sem. hrs.) <i>One of these courses is required:</i> APEC 3010 Intro. to Agric. Econ. (3 sem. hrs.) APEC 3012 Intro. to Nat. Res. & Regional Econ. (3 sem. hrs.) <i>One of these courses is required:</i> ENVS 3300 Fund. Of Recreation Resources Mgt. (3 sem. hrs.) PSC 4320 Forage Prod. & Pasture Ecol. (3 sem. hrs.) PSC 4280 World Field Cropping Systems (3 sem. hrs.) WILD 4500 Principles of Wildlife Mgt. (3 sem. hrs.) WILD 5300 Human Wildlife Interactions (3 sem. hrs.) TOTAL = 15 semester hours</p>
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