

# CONSERVATION STUDIES MINOR (COS)

Banner Code: CNST

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This minor is designed for undergraduate students who wish to augment their primary academic program with conservation studies taught in an experiential manner. There are three semester-long options by which students can complete the minor including topics such as: "Conservation, Biodiversity and Society", "Wildlife Ecology and Conservation", or "Endangered Species Conservation". These semesters are grounded in natural science and offer a collection of interdisciplinary courses that combine public policy, sociology, conflict resolution, and global awareness with hands-on experience. Students are in residence at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/conservation>) in Front Royal, Virginia, and are taught by Mason faculty, Smithsonian scientists and practitioners.

The minor is available only to students who enroll in any of the Smithsonian Mason Semesters (<https://smconservation.gmu.edu>), semester-long residential programs held at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/conservation>) in Front Royal, VA. The semesters are offered jointly by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Science under the auspices of the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (<http://smconservation.gmu.edu>).

This is a Green Leaf program.

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions

The minor is available only to students who enroll in either of the Smithsonian Mason Semesters, semester-long residential programs held at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, VA.

### Policies

Eight credits of coursework must be unique to the minor and students pursuing this minor must complete one of the options with a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course. For policies governing all minors, see AP5.3.4 Minors.

## Requirements

### Minor Requirements

Total credits: 15-16

This is a Green Leaf program.

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

### Conservation, Biodiversity and Society Option

Code	Title	Credits
CONS 320	Conservation in Practice	3
CONS 401	Conservation Theory	3
CONS 402	Applied Conservation	4
CONS 410	Human Dimensions in Conservation (Mason Core)	3
CONS 490	RS: Integrated Conservation Strategies (Mason Core)	3

Total Credits 16

### Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Option (fall semester only)

Code	Title	Credits
CONS 400	Conservation Seminar	2
CONS 404	Biodiversity Monitoring	4
CONS 405	Landscape and Macrosystems Ecology	4
CONS 496	Research in Conservation (Mason Core)	5

Total Credits 15

### Endangered Species and Conservation Option (spring semester only)

Code	Title	Credits
CONS 400	Conservation Seminar	2
CONS 406	Small Population Management	4
CONS 491	RS: Conservation Management Planning (Mason Core)	4
CONS 496	Research in Conservation (Mason Core)	5

Total Credits 15