

Wilderness and Civilization Program Frequently Asked Questions

Features and Requirements 2012-2013

What is Wilderness and Civilization?

An interdisciplinary wilderness studies program with coursework in ecology, policy, Native American studies, literature, resource conservation, and art leading to a Wilderness Studies Minor.

Who can participate?

- Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors
- UM students AND exchange students
- Students from any major -

Are there prerequisites?

No. However, because the program is writing intensive, we prefer students who have taken an English composition course or who can demonstrate writing proficiency. Students do not need prior backcountry or camping experience.

What is the course load and how long is the program?

Students are required to take 17 credits in the Fall, 3 credits during Wintersession, and 4 credits in the Spring. The program begins in late August (a week before Fall semester starts) and ends in late May. While exchange students are encouraged to remain in residency at UM during the spring semester, program requirements can be completed from their home college or university.

How do students get the Wilderness Studies Minor?

Completion of the Wilderness and Civilization Program fulfills all of the requirements for the Wilderness Studies Minor.

How large are the courses?

Nearly all program courses are limited to the 25 Wilderness and Civilization students (some courses contain a few non-program students admitted at the instructor's discretion).

Is Wilderness and Civilization on-campus or off-campus?

Both. Students spend 30-40 days in the field, including a 10-day backcountry trip, several weekend trips, and full-day field trips most Fridays. Students also participate in 2.0 credit internships with community organizations and federal land management agencies. The remainder of their time is spent on campus--in the classroom, library, and computer lab.

Who teaches the courses?

Faculty in the College of Forestry and Conservation, the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West (a complete list of faculty is available on our website at www.cfc.umt.edu/wc).

What about Davidson Honors College credit?

Students may receive honors credit for the program, which fulfills up to four of the six honors courses required by the Davidson Honors College.

How do students apply?

Interested students can pick up an application at the Wilderness Institute (Main Hall 303) or download one from our website (www.cfc.umt.edu/wc). We accept applications anytime before February 15th, our early admissions deadline. The general admissions deadline is April 1st. After April 1st, applications are considered if space is available. All applicants are notified prior to pre-registration for Fall semester.

Will the courses count toward major requirements or general education requirements?

Many program courses fulfill general education requirements (see course list on our website). Whether or not program courses count toward major requirements is determined by each student's advisor and department.

How can students combine Wilderness and Civilization with a major in Resource Conservation?

Resource Conservation is a flexible major, tailored to individual student's interests and professional goals. As such, the Resource Conservation major works well for many Wilderness and Civilization students. For more information on how to combine Wilderness and Civilization with a major in Resource Conservation, please visit www.cfc.umt.edu/rc.

Where can students get more information?

We are always happy to meet with prospective students who want more information. Students can also find course lists, course syllabi, information about program faculty, applications, and other details on our website.

Is this an outdoor recreation program or a backcountry skills program?

No. Wilderness and Civilization is an interdisciplinary program focusing on academic exploration of wilderness and wildland conservation. Field trips are utilized for hands-on learning about ecology and land management. Wilderness and Civilization is not a backcountry skills or outdoor leadership program. Students do not need prior backcountry or camping experience to participate.