



Applied Fire Science & Management, B.S.

Exacerbated by drought, fire suppression policies, and climate change, wildfires are becoming more frequent, larger, and more destructive. The Applied Fire Science & Management bachelor's degree program meets this challenge head-on by exploring the science and management of fire from multiple disciplines and perspectives, including local indigenous knowledge. Exploring and learning from a dynamic and varied set of practices provides students with a strong background in fire science, management, and policy in a rapidly changing world.

Experience Your Learning

Students take their learning beyond the classroom to conduct timely and relevant monitoring and research with fire science professors and with local, state, and federal partners.

The campus Fire Lab is among the most well-equipped fire research facilities in any university in the country. Students also have access to the Arcata Community Forest behind campus, public and private forest lands, and more.

First-year, first-time students in the program will automatically be enrolled in Klamath Connection. One of several place-based learning communities, the free year-long program of science and general education (GE) courses and activities focus on one theme: the Klamath River. You'll also meet other students in your and related science majors, building connections in the process.

Data collected by students is put to good use, helping to inform fire management learning techniques for local agencies. Student research has also been shared with partners such as the Karuk Tribe and the Mid Klamath Watershed Council.

Embedded in the program are invaluable collaborations with local Native tribes and nonprofit organizations, providing students an array of perspectives from the community and established and respected professionals.

Did you know?

- Cal Poly Humboldt researchers are among the top fire science and forestry experts in the nation.
- Our fire program is the largest in the state and one of the largest in the nation, and is one of only two four-year bachelor's degree fire programs.
- The region has 1.5 million acres of forest and 680,000 acres of state and national parks.
- "Return of the Jedi" scenes were filmed in a forest not far away.



Academics & Options

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Fieldwork and Forests

In the heart of redwood country, students have access to several forests to conduct research.

The Arcata Community Forest: Just behind campus, the 790-acre redwood forest is a nationally recognized model of excellent forestry and land stewardship.

Jacoby Creek Forest: The nearly 900-acre property acquired by the University is a major destination for field trips, capstone projects, and student research.

L.W. Schatz Demonstration Tree Farm: Cal Poly Humboldt's 385-acre property serves as a field experiment station for student and faculty research, an outdoor classroom for educators, and a demonstration area for forestry professionals.

Get Involved

Student Association of Fire Ecology

(S.A.F.E.) is a student club for advancing and grounding our Humboldt education with practical application and fire management training. It is one of the longer standing university chapters in the nation. Members participate in prescribed burns and training.

Forestry Club

For more than 50 years, the Cal Poly Humboldt Forestry Club has held the proud tradition of donating to scholarships, hosting educational events, and organizing networking opportunities for its members.

Xi Sigma Pi

The Society of Xi Sigma Pi is a national organization with 43 active chapters. The club secures and maintains a high standard of scholarship in forest resource management education, to work for the improvement of the forestry profession, and to promote a fraternal spirit among those engaged in activities related to forest resources.

Careers

The Applied Fire Science & Management program prepares students for a growing profession that is essential for improving the wellbeing of California and the nation. Graduates often go on to work for local, state, federal, tribal, private, and non-governmental entities.

- Battalion chief
- Fire captain
- Fire ecologist
- Fire effects monitor
- Fire management officer
- Fire management specialist
- Fire planner
- Fire use module lead
- Fuels management specialist

