

# CONSERVATION STUDIES MINOR (COS)

Banner Code: CNST

Yoonsung Kim, Undergraduate Program Director

Email: [espug@gmu.edu](mailto:espug@gmu.edu)  
Website: [smconservation.gmu.edu](http://smconservation.gmu.edu)

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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/student-services/green-leaf-programs-courses/>).

## 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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/#ap-5-3-4>).

## Requirements

### Minor Requirements

Total credits: 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) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )       | 3       |
| CONS 490      | RS: Integrated Conservation Strategies (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) | 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) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) | 6       |
| Total Credits |   | 16      |

### 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) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) | 4       |
| CONS 496      | Research in Conservation (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )             | 6       |
| Total Credits |   | 16      |