

FALL 2022

DEPARTMENT HEAD SEARCH ***FOREST RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION***



COLLEGE OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
VIRGINIA TECH



STATEMENT FROM THE DEAN AND CHAIR OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

We want to introduce you to—or perhaps reacquaint you with—the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation in Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources and Environment. We also want to announce the search to fill the role of the head of the department. Our overall goals for this prospectus are to provide you with key insights regarding the attributes and accolades of the department, and to take the initial steps toward hiring the individual who will take on this exceptional leadership opportunity.

The head of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation is one of the premier academic leadership roles in forestry in North America. The department has a tenure-track faculty of more than 30, a research faculty of 12, and an excellent and supportive staff. The undergraduate enrollment is approximately 330, and the growing graduate enrollment is close to 50. The department has annual research expenditures approaching \$5 million and an award-winning extension and outreach program. We are seeking the next leader of this vibrant, forward-looking academic program.

This is an exciting time to lead the department and to continue our positive, upward, and impactful trajectory. Forests and natural resources, as well as their attendant and far-ranging ecological, environmental, economic, and social benefits, are critical to the sustainability of the planet in our complex and changing world, especially during this period of climate change and unprecedented global urbanization. As the world changes around us, we must continue to position the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation—and the college and university—in the most innovative, exigent, and enduring ways possible.

We seek an engaged, visionary, energetic, and competent leader for this strategic leadership role in the department and our college. We invite you to consider this opportunity for yourself, or to help us identify the next leader for Virginia Tech forestry. We welcome your interest and would be pleased to visit with you personally if you would like to express a personal interest or recommend other individuals for our consideration.

Sincerely,

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Natural Resources and Environment
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William Hopkins
Professor and Director, Global Change Center
Associate Executive Director, Fralin Life Sciences Inst
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ABOUT VIRGINIA TECH

Dedicated to its motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech pushes the boundaries of knowledge by taking a hands-on, transdisciplinary approach to preparing scholars to be leaders and problem-solvers.

As the commonwealth's most comprehensive university and a leading research institution, Virginia Tech enrolls more than 37,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in nine colleges. Approximately 80 percent of the student body is composed of undergraduates, who are enrolled in more than 110 bachelor's degree programs. The university received a record 45,214 applications for the fall 2022 first-year class, which included a 19 percent increase in applicants identified as first-generation college students.

There are more than 170 master's and doctoral degree programs administered through the

Graduate School, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, and Honors College.

Virginia Tech employs 2,331 full- and part-time instructional faculty members, 51 percent of whom are tenured. The student-to-faculty ratio is 13:1. With a research portfolio of more than \$556 million, Virginia Tech is in the top 5 percent of universities in the nation for research expenditures, and one of two Virginia institutions in the top 50. The university is ranked 48th overall in the National Science Foundation's annual survey of higher ed research expenditures. The Corporate

Research Center on the Blacksburg campus houses 180 companies in 33 buildings.

Blacksburg is the home of Virginia Tech's 2,600-acre main campus. The university also has a significant presence across the commonwealth, including the Innovation Campus in Northern Virginia, the Health Sciences and Technology Campus in Roanoke, and sites in Newport News and Richmond; educational and research facilities across the state; a study-abroad site in Switzerland; and a 1,800-acre agriculture research farm near the main campus. The campus proper is located in the New River Valley and is 38 miles southwest of Roanoke.



ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Ensuring a sustainable future in an era of global resources challenges will take insight, creativity, and teamwork. The College of Natural Resources and Environment pairs today's leading experts with a diverse, talented, and driven student body—the next generation who will shape the world to come.

The roots of the college date back to 1925 when the first faculty forester was hired by the College of Agriculture (now Agriculture and Life Sciences). The College of Forestry and Wildlife emerged from its school status in 1991-1992, was renamed the College of Natural Resources in 2000, and then acquired its present designation as the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) in 2011.

CNRE is one of nine academic colleges at Virginia Tech and has four academic departments covering a range of interests and disciplines: Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Geography, and Sustainable Biomaterials. The college employs more than 300 faculty and staff, including 83 tenure-track faculty.

Approximately 1,000 undergraduate students in 11 majors and 200 graduate students in traditional master's and doctoral programs are enrolled in the college at the Blacksburg campus. An additional 200 graduate students are pursuing professional master's degrees at the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area.

The college has evolved and advanced to become a national leader in its disciplines. A recent study by the University of Central Florida indicates that CNRE is one of the top five producers of graduates nationally in all degree programs housed in the college (CIP code classifications).

FACTS AND ACCOLADES



5

Endowed professorships



\$17M

Annual research expenditures

- Academic Advising Center with a staff of nine, including two recruiters
- Advancement team with leadership positions in philanthropy, communications, and alumni relations
- Director of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Director of employer relations who plans two annual career fairs and connects employers and students
- Industry cooperatives and affiliate programs

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FACILITIES



1,200 acres

Fishburn Forest



40,000 square-feet

Thomas M. Brooks Forest Products Center, and Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design

- Reynolds Homestead Forest Experiment Station Research and Education Center
- Wild Animal Research Facility with 16-bay aviary, recirculating aquaculture laboratory, and mussel propagation laboratory

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

The Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation is a national leader in forestry and allied areas of study, and the undergraduate forestry curriculum has been continuously accredited by the Society of American Foresters since 1965.

The department was first established within the College of Agriculture in 1959, and the university’s programs in forestry, wildlife, and forest products grew rapidly in the 1970’s. In 1972, the programs were separated into the Department Forestry and Forest Products and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. In 1979, the Department of Forest Products was established separately from the Department of Forestry.

In 2008, the Department of Forestry was renamed the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation (FREC) to recognize the broader scope of majors, research, and outreach activities. Students pursue the following degrees: B.S. in Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, B.S. in Water: Resources, Policy, and Management, M.S./M.F. in Forestry and Forest Products, and Ph.D. in Forestry and Forest Products.

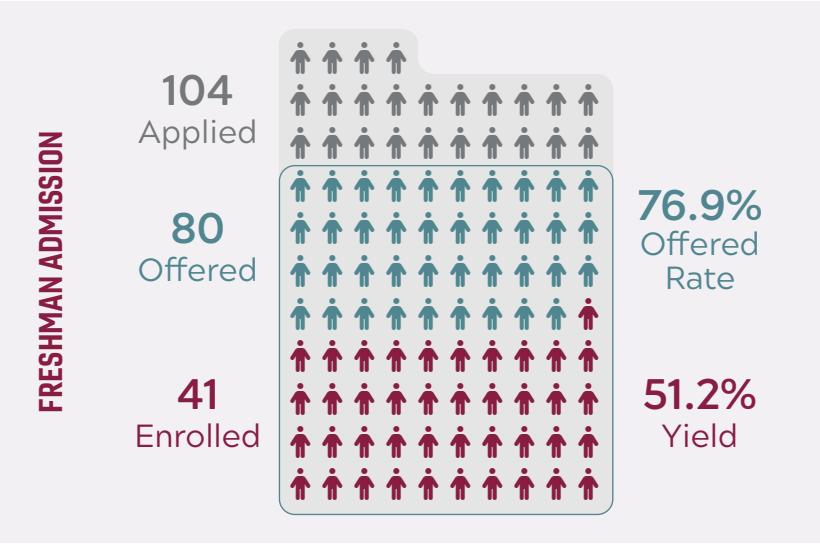
The Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation is well known for encompassing diverse disciplines and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration in areas such as economics and policy; ecosystem science and management; human dimensions of natural resources; genetics and biotechnology; geospatial analysis and biometrics; forest ecology, management, operations, and business; urban forestry; and water resources.

The department’s annual budget exceeds \$4.5 million. There are four endowed professorships in the department, including the Thomas M. Brooks Professorship, the first endowed professorship at Virginia Tech. Faculty are involved with numerous professional organizations and societies, and many of our faculty also have a strong international presence.

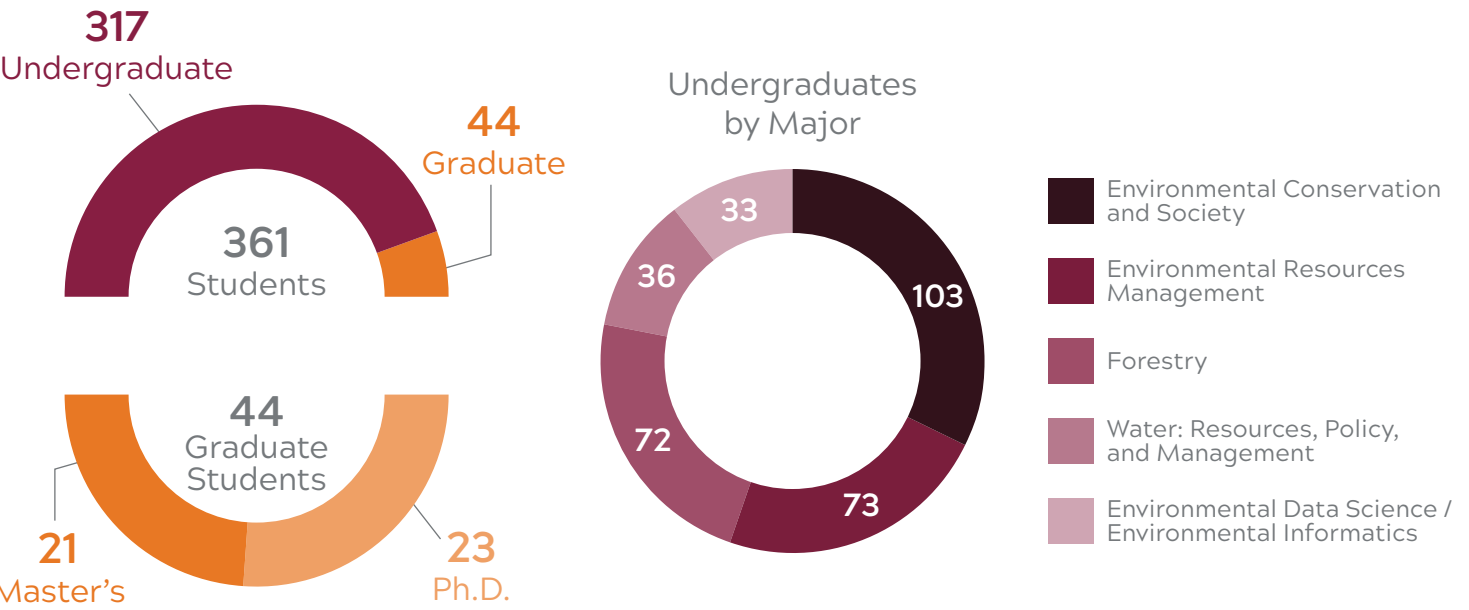
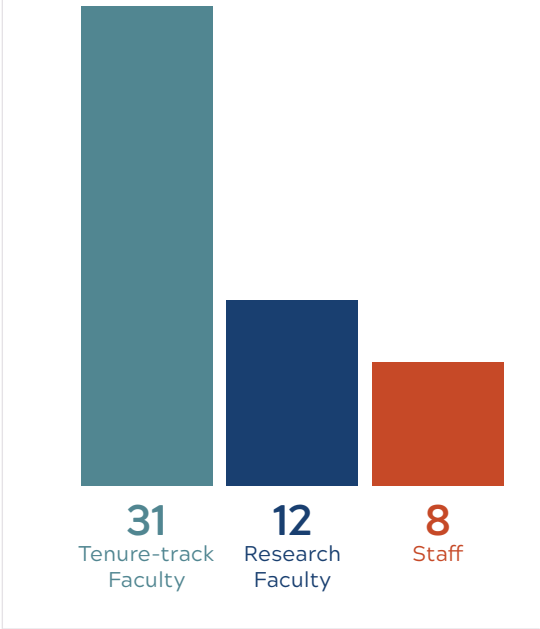
Virginia is 62% forested and the forest sector contributes more than \$20 billion annually to the state’s economy. Members of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation enjoy close working relationships with the state’s secretary of agriculture and forestry, Department of Forestry, and Division of Wildlife Resources. We also work closely with our state associations: the Virginia Forestry Association, the Virginia Forest Products Association, and the Virginia Loggers Association. We are deeply connected with forest landowners and industry producers, and many of our alumni work in the state and region and remain connected to the department, the college, and our faculty. The department hosts an engaged advisory board of committed individuals. With an exceptionally strong constituency in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the region, FREC is one of the “voices of forestry” in the state, the mid-Atlantic region, and the nation.

DEMOGRAPHICS

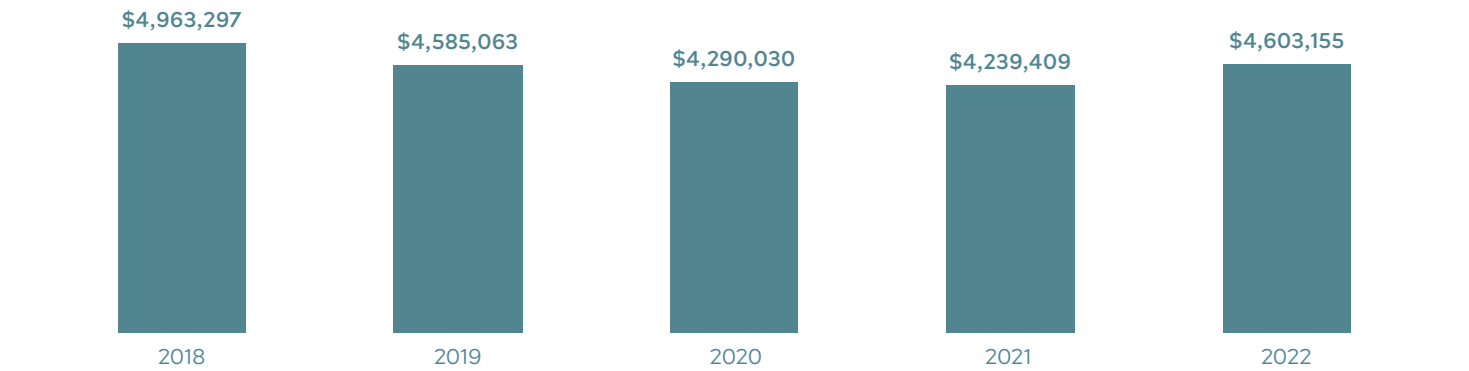
STUDENTS



FACULTY & STAFF



RESEARCH EXPENDITURES



POSITION DESCRIPTION AND DUTIES

The College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech invites applications and nominations of exceptional leaders for the position of professor and department head for the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. This is a full-time, 12-month, tenured position. Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2022.

Department faculty, staff, and students are nationally recognized for the quality of their scholarship across a broad array of disciplines. The department is one of four academic units in the College of Natural Resources and Environment (Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Geography, and Sustainable Biomaterials). The Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation is considered one of the premier teaching, research, and engagement programs of its kind in the country, and the college has repeatedly been distinguished as one of the leading natural resources colleges in the nation.

We seek a leader with a strong and creative vision to facilitate the following goals of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation:

- 1) Addressing challenges for forests and the environment under existing and emerging pressures in Virginia, and at regional, national and global scales.
- 2) Advancing our research, teaching, extension, and service missions within the context of the missions and strategic priorities of the department, college, and university.

We aspire to have a visionary leader who will foster a diverse and inclusive environment and keep the department at the leading frontiers of forest science and environmental conservation. The department head provides leadership in the management and administration of the department, with oversight in areas of faculty and staff recruiting and retention, diversity, departmental self-governance, deployment of departmental human resources, curriculum development, extension, research, budgeting and reporting, facilities, gifts and endowments, alumni relations, and acquisition of external funding.

The department head should be responsive to the needs of faculty, staff, and students, and serve as an effective advocate for the department within the college and university, as well as with diverse external stakeholders. This position reports to the dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, and liaises with other administrators of the college, university, state and federal agencies, and relevant stakeholders. As part of the college's Leadership Team, the department head is expected to fully support the commitment and goals regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion as set forth in the college's strategic plan.

The department actively seeks and promotes the contributions of diverse peoples and perspectives in pursuing its mission, and is committed to continuous improvement to foster an inclusive environment and to expand opportunities for all. Women and/or candidates from historically underrepresented groups in the professoriate are especially encouraged to apply.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required Qualifications

Candidates must have a Ph.D. in any academic discipline related to areas of programming and scholarship in the department. Candidates should possess a distinguished record of accomplishment, including demonstrated strength in teaching, research, and/or extension, that meets the departmental expectations for appointment at the rank of professor in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. Candidates must have leadership experience, with a strong track record of working effectively with diverse people at all levels of an organization. The department head should have a demonstrated ability to contribute to the growth of an inclusive campus culture while building diversity among faculty, staff, and students. Prior demonstration of collegial leadership, transparent decision making, and effective management and communication skills is paramount. Candidates should possess a broad understanding of current and emerging trends in natural resources science and management and recognize the key contributions of both the biophysical and social sciences.

Preferred Qualifications

In addition to the above required qualifications, it is preferred that candidates have academic administrative experience to include supporting a horizontal governance structure; a history of collaboration with colleagues on and off campus; experience with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary scholarship; experience reaching out to business, industry, government agencies, nonprofits, other universities, and professional associations; experience cultivating the professional development of faculty and staff; an articulated vision for enhancing external funding of the department; and demonstrated ability to be a good departmental, college, and university citizen.





APPLICATION PROCESS

Application materials should include a resume and the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of five professional references. References will not be contacted until later stages of the search and candidates will be notified in advance of contacting references.

The applicant should address their interest in the position by preparing a written statement of interest (three page maximum) that addresses their qualifications relative to the position description and commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment. All materials must be submitted electronically. An official transcript must be provided as a condition of employment. Submit application materials online at jobs.vt.edu. Review of candidate files will begin by December 1, 2022, and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

NOMINATIONS AND INQUIRIES

William Hopkins

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