

UF Courses for The Wildlife Society Certification for Associate Wildlife Biologist®

Students majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation can apply for professional certification as an Associate Wildlife Biologist® from The Wildlife Society (TWS, <https://wildlife.org/certification-programs/>). This certification is voluntary and is not required to graduate from the University of Florida.

TWS is the only organization providing a peer-reviewed certification for wildlife biologists. Certification means that an individual meets the minimum educational, experience, and ethical standards adopted by the Society for professional wildlife biologists. Currently, TWS has more than 2,400 Associate or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, primarily across the United States and Canada.

While it is not necessary to have a certification to be a wildlife professional, the educational requirements for certification are similar to those required for federal jobs as a Wildlife Biologist (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0400/wildlife-biology-series-0486/>) or Ecologist (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0400/ecology-series-0408/>).

What classes are needed for AWB® certification?

This document serves as a guideline and checklist to support application for The Wildlife Society's Associate Wildlife Biologist® certification. Courses are needed across several categories to be eligible for certification. Courses listed below currently meet category requirements, but final determination is made by the TWS certification board. The WEC curriculum satisfies many of the requirements, but students will need to select specific courses for their common and focus requirements that can also meet category requirements. Decisions on course substitutions are made by a TWS board, and NOT UF's Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department. For more detailed information on the categories, go to the TWS certification application form at https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/AWB-Certification_Mar2025.pdf. For questions about course substitutions and other inquiries please contact certification@wildlife.org.

*Note: TWS accepts AP credit for coursework IF the AP exam score is 4 or higher.

UF Courses Approved for The Wildlife Society (TWS) Certification:

Use the following tables to calculate whether you have met all the requirements to qualify for certification.

<i>Wildlife Management and Biology: Minimum 12 Credit Hours Needed</i>			
Section Notes: 1) At least one course must focus on wildlife management, and 2) one course must be in either herpetology, mammalogy or ornithology. Herpetology/mammalogy/ornithology may not be substituted with work experience			
Course Number and Title	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
WIS 3401 Wildlife Ecology and Management	3	Fall and Spring	
WIS 4427C Wildlife Habitat Management	3	Spring	
WIS 3402 Wildlife of Florida Lecture	3	Spring	
WIS 4424 Large Mammal Ecology	3	Spring in odd years	
ZOO 4427C Avian Biology	4	Spring	
ZOO 4962C Herpetology	3	Offered periodically	
WIS 4570C Wildlife Behavior and Conservation	3	Fall	
WIS 4934 Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians	3	Offered periodically	
WIS 4934 Ecology/Invasion of Reptiles and Amphibians	3	Offered periodically	
			Total Wildlife/Biology credits:

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Certification Continued:

Ecology: Minimum 3 Credit Hours Needed			
Course Number and Title – choose 1	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
FNR 3500C Forest Ecology	3	Fall and Spring	
PCB 3601C Plant Ecology	3	Spring	
PCB 4043C General Ecology	4	Fall and Summer C	
WIS 3404 Natural Resource Ecology	3	Fall	
			Total Ecology credits:

Zoology: Minimum 9 Credit Hours			
Course Number and Title – choose 3	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
BSC 2010/2010L Integrated Principles of Biology 1 & Lab	4	Fall, Spring, & Summer C	
ENY3005/3005L Principles of Entomology & Lab	4	Fall, Spring, & Summer C	
ENY 4210 Insects and Wildlife	3	Fall <u>Prerequisite:</u> ENY 3005L or BSC 2005L or equivalent	
ZOO 4205C Invertebrate Biodiversity	4	Spring <u>Prerequisite:</u> BSC 2011 and BSC 2011L with minimum grades of C	
WIS 3553C Conservation Genetics	4	Spring	
ZOO 4307 Vertebrate Biodiversity	4	Fall	
ZOO 4962C Herpetology	3	Offered periodically	
ZOO 4403 Marine Biology	4	Fall	
			Total Zoology credits:

Botany: Minimum 9 Credit Hours			
Section Notes: at least 2 courses must focus on plant taxonomy or identification. BOT 2710C, BOT 3151C, FNR 3131C, and ORH 3513C satisfy that requirement.			
Course Number and Title – choose 3	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
BSC 2011/2011L Integrated Principles of Biology 2 & Lab	4	Fall, Spring & Summer C	
BOT 2011C Plant Diversity	4	Spring	
BOT 2710C Practical Plant Taxonomy	3	Fall	
BOT 3151C Local Flora of North Florida	3	Fall & Spring	
FNR 3131C - Dendrology/Forest Plants	3	Fall	
ORH 3513C - Environmental Plant Identification and Use	3	Fall & Summer C Only	
PCB 3601C Plant Ecology	3	Spring: If used to fulfill the Ecology requirement above, it CANNOT also be used here.	
			Total Botany credits:

Physical Sciences: Minimum 9 Credit Hours			
Course Number and Title – choose 3	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
SWS 3022/L Introduction to Soils in the Environment and Lab	4	Fall & Spring; Lecture only in Summer B	
CHM 2045/2045L General Chemistry 1	4	Fall, Spring & Summer C	
CHM 1025 Introduction to Chemistry	2	Fall, Spring, & Summer B	
GLY 1150L Florida Geology Lab	1	Fall, Spring, & Summer C <u>Prerequisite:</u> ENY 3005L or BSC 2005L or equivalent	
Section Notes: Must have two disciplines represented through the courses you select.			Total Physical Science credits:

Basic Statistics: Minimum 3 Credit Hours			
Course Number and Title	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
STA 2023 Introduction to Statistics 1	3	Fall, Spring & Summers A and B	

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Certification Continued:

Quantitative Sciences: Minimum 6 Credit Hours			
Course Number and Title	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
MAC 2311 Analytic Geometry and Calculus 1	4	Fall, Spring & Summers B and C	
WIS 4601C Quantitative Wildlife Ecology	3	Fall, Spring <u>Prerequisite:</u> STA 2023 and WIS 3401.	
Section Notes: Other acceptable courses: Calculus, biometry, college algebra, advanced algebra, trigonometry, systems analysis, mathematical modelling, sampling, computer science, GIS courses if relevant to wildlife habitat.			Total Quantitative credits:

Humanities and Social Sciences: Minimum 9 Credit Hours			
Section Notes: Courses such as economics, sociology, physiology, political science, government, history, literature, or foreign language. Usually, completing your General Education and CALS required courses fulfills all nine of these credits. You should check, particularly if you tested out of some of these. Enter the courses you took that meet this requirement below.			
Course Number and Title	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
			Total Humanities credits:

Communications: Minimum 12 Credit Hours			
Section Notes: 6 credit hours are met through CALS requirements. The other 6 credit hours are met with your general education requirements.			
Course Number and Title	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
AEC 3030C Effective Oral Communication OR SPC 2608 Introduction to Public Speaking	3	Every semester CALS Requirement	
AEC 3033C Research and Business Writing in Agricultural and Life Sciences OR ENC 2210 Technical Writing OR ENC 2256 Professional Writing	3	Every Semester CALS Requirement <u>Prerequisite:</u> Junior or senior standing. <u>Attributes:</u> Satisfies 6000 Words of Writing Requirement	
			Total Communications credits:

Policy, Administration, and Law: Minimum 6 Credit Hours			
Course Number and Title	Credits	Semester/Notes	Credits taken
FNR 4660 Natural Resource Policy & Administration	3	Fall	
FNR 3602 Society and Natural Resources	3	Spring	
FNR 4080 Sustainable Ecotourism and Development	3	Fall	
WIS 4523 Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Conservation	3	Fall	
ECP 3302 Environmental Economics and Resource Policy	3	Fall	
WIS 4551 Diverse Perspectives in Conservation	3	Spring	
AEB 3450 Introduction to Natural Resources and Environmental Economics	3	Fall and Spring	
AEB 4126 Agricultural and Natural Resource Ethics	3	Fall & Spring	
			Total Policy/Admin/Law credits: