Focused on the natural and social sciences, the Ecosystem Science and Conservation (ESC) program equips students with the knowledge and skills to become leaders in the sustainable stewardship of our natural resources.

VISION
Employing a systems-level approach that is grounded in cutting edge scientific research, we train students to consider the implications that natural events and human activities have on ecosystems and landscapes.

CURRICULUM
We match our curriculum to your interests and career goals. You will pick the topic area and analytical tools that best fit your needs. With the help of a faculty advisor, you will select courses with the right mix of core knowledge and skills for your area of specialization.

YOUR FUTURE
Our graduates work in federal agencies, conservation non-profits, state governments, international organizations, the private sector, and regional and local land trusts. Example employers include the USDA Forest Service, the US National Park Service, the Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund.
JOEL DUNN MEM/MPP’04
“I use my training in ecosystem science and conservation every day. Nicholas School students have a can-do, get-it-done, everyone-pull-together, whatever-it-takes attitude that is required to achieve natural and cultural resource conservation goals.”
Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservancy

LAUREN FETY MF/MEM’15
“The Nicholas School community is incredibly integrated across disciplines – I focus on forestry & conservation – and I’m constantly delighted how making connections with others improves my intellectual experience and on-the-ground natural resource management.”
Forest Analyst, The Conservation Fund

ALICIA BURTNER MEM’10
“My education at the Nicholas School was extremely practical and hands-on. With the Duke Forest and the Wetland Center so readily available, I gained experience actively managing natural areas - a skill which few students are afforded the opportunity to practice.”
Fish Biologist, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Meet more ESC alumni @ nicholas.duke.edu/people/alumni/esc