

Educational Objectives

In 1970, Vancouver Island University began offering the first year of BCIT's 2 year Forest Resources Technology program. In 1977, a second year was added to create a fully autonomous, stand alone, Forest Technology program to meet the ever expanding demand in BC for Forest Technologists. A broad choice of field positions in forestry, environmental management, and natural resource management are available to our graduates who gain employment through private companies, government agencies, independent consultants or private contractors as timber cruisers, engineers, silviculture contract administrators and planners, as well as other technical jobs in fields such as GIS, aerial photography, and computer applications.

Vancouver Island University's program seeks to provide the technical training required for a starting career in most fields of forestry. The program emphasizes the recognition and appreciation of all the major values of the forest including timber, recreation, wildlife, range, fish, water, soils, biodiversity, visual quality, cultural heritage, and other resource features. The program is officially recognized by the Association of B.C. Forestry Professionals and graduates have the credits required for obtaining the status of "Registered Forest Technologist," in accordance with the Foresters Act of B.C.

The objective of the VIU Forestry Program is *to develop foundational concepts, practical skills and critical thinking in order to promote success in a forestry-related career or post-graduate educational pursuit.* VIU Forest Resources Technology students graduate having demonstrated the ability to perform all field functions required and expected of a forest technician including, but not limited to:

1. Accurately inventory and process information on forest resource values such as forest cover, ground vegetation, and biogeoclimatic site classification;
2. Design and lay-out forest road and harvesting projects consistent with resource values and economic considerations;
3. Develop appropriate, site specific and ecologically sound forest management and harvesting plans and strategies;
4. Plan and schedule appropriate reforestation and stand maintenance prescriptions and strategies;
5. Recognise forest health issues common to BC's forest environment and develop appropriate management options that are biologically and economically effective;
6. Understand and appreciate BC's forest and environmental legislation, First Nations' values, and society's expectations relative to forest resource management.

Further, the program develops and promotes individual skills related to problem solving, collaboration, verbal and written communications, safe work habits, ethical and professional behaviour and reliability.