

Your Guide to Field School

What is Field School?

Field School provides our students the opportunity to meet classmates, gain valuable field experience and technical skills, and connect with industry and technical experts. The Faculty runs two field schools:

- **REN R 101 Introductory Forestry Field School**
Taken in Year 1 during the week immediately before classes begin.
Allows all new forestry students the opportunity to take a 6-day tour throughout Alberta to view the diversity of the province's forest resources and forest-related activities and get to know all your classmates before you start classes.
- **REN R 299 Environmental and Conservation Sciences and Forestry Field School**
Taken in the spring between Year 2 and Year 3.
A 3-week program that combines the concepts, theories and practices of environmental, conservation and forest sciences in an off-campus field experience. Field skill proficiency in planning, measurement, analysis and reporting is emphasized for biophysical and socioeconomic components of the environment.

Who participates in Field School?

Forestry and Forest Business Management students must take part in both REN R 101 (6-day Field School) and REN R 299 (3-week Field School). Environmental and Conservation Sciences students must take part in REN R 299 (3-week Field School).

Why is Field School important?

Each Field School serves its own important purpose that is essential to your degree and undergraduate experience. In REN R 101, one of our main priorities is orientation. We want you to get to know both your classmates and the breadth of the discipline of Forestry. During the 6-day course, you will meet a number of instructors and industry experts, take part in activities to help build your technical skills and understanding of Forestry, and you will tour several sights. In REN R 299, you will meet over 42 instructors and learn about essential safety measures and technical expertise in field work, as well as, measuring and managing bio-physical resources.

What can I expect during Field School?

Field School is about adding an essential hands-on component to your degree - both so you understand your discipline better and are a stronger candidate on the job market. During Field School, there is little to no classroom time. In the morning, your instructor and team leaders will review the day's agenda and make sure you are set up with your team and then you are outside for the day getting your hands dirty, learning from experts. The day typically ends at 4pm (usually there is no homework) and then there is lots of opportunity to socialize and relax with your classmates - sports, movie nights, BBQs and more!