

DEFIANCE COLLEGE

Restoration Ecology

Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Restoration Ecology

What is Restoration Ecology?

Restoration Ecology is the science of restoring and repairing degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems. With the worldwide destruction of forests, grasslands, wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, and the loss of species, there are many opportunities for restoration ecologists both now and in the future.

Restoration Ecology is intimately tied to ecological restoration, the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed (Society for Ecological Restoration).



A salamander found at Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary by Field Zoology students.



DC students collecting and identifying insects at Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary during Freshman Service Day.

“My Restoration Ecology degree from Defiance College has provided a great foundation to build my career as an environmental consultant. The knowledge and skills I learned at DC help me in all aspects of my job; from tree surveys to wetland delineations to planting plans.”

Stacy Sattler
Restoration Ecology
New Albany, Ohio
Class of 2005

After College — What’s Next?

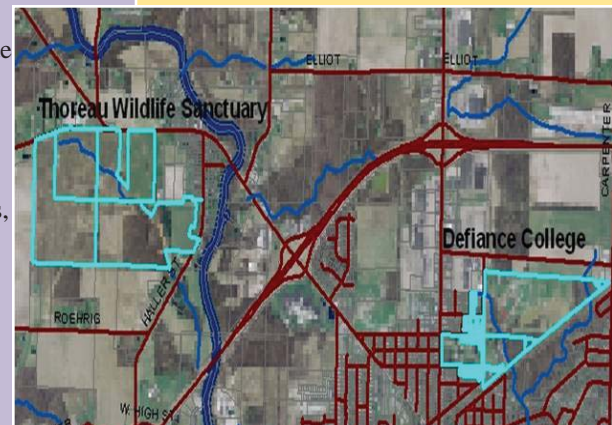
Because of major environmental problems faced worldwide, graduates in the environmental fields are in demand. Opportunities exist in private businesses and with governmental agencies. Examples include restoration project managers, nature sanctuary research assistants, environmental organization staff, and restoration consultants with private firms. Students have gone on to work in a variety of public and private sector jobs, such as working for environmental consulting firms and park districts.

Training in Restoration Ecology gives you an opportunity to prove yourself, and in the process, become accustomed to working in a career situation that demands application of special academic skills. Students graduate with a global perspective on ecological restoration, well-prepared for a wide variety of career options in this field.

A Unique Opportunity

Defiance College, in partnership with the Diehl Family Foundation, established the Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary in 1989. More than 200 acres of farmland were converted to prairie, meadow, deciduous forest, wetland, and white pine forest habitats. Management of these habitats is ongoing and has been integral to the development of the Restoration Ecology major at Defiance College.

This program began in the 1990’s, and is one of less than 20 Restoration Ecology degree programs offered in the United States and Canada and the only one at a small, liberal arts college. Restoration Ecology students have planted more than 40,000 trees on the Sanctuary property, as well as planting herbaceous terrestrial and wetland plants. Further, students have conducted research involving reintroduction of bobwhite quail and ringnecked pheasants, prairie burns, and distributions of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Current projects range from control of invasive terrestrial plants to effects of cropland on water quality.



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http://www.defiance.edu/pages/NS_majors_restoration.html

The Faculty

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DC students repairing a washout in one of the created wetlands at Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Courses



- BI 120 Principles of Biology I
 - BI 129 Principles of Biology II
 - BI 250 Field Zoology
 - BI 270 Field Botany
 - BI 320 Ecology
 - BI 350 Wildlife Management
 - BI 420 Restoration Ecology I
 - BI 421 Restoration Ecology II
 - BI 422 Restoration Ecology III
 - CH 123 General Chemistry I
 - CH 124 General Chemistry II
 - CH 233 Organic Chemistry I
 - NS 198 Natural Science Seminar
 - NS 499 Senior Capstone
- An internship, cooperative education, or field experience
- MA 106 Pre-Calculus Mathematics
 - PY 230 Behavioral Statistics
- And 3 credits in Information Technology

Internships/Co-op Experiences

Students will serve an internship (normally between the junior and senior year) to acquire additional field experience. An undergraduate restoration research project will serve as the senior capstone experience for the restoration ecology major. Undergraduate research may be completed at the 200-acre Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary located within two miles of campus. Examples of research include establishment of relic prairie plants and wildflowers, study of bird migration, development of wetlands, woodlot development, study of meadow species establishment, and butterfly population restoration, just to name a few. Students have the opportunity to take yearly field trips. Recent trips have been to Yellowstone National Park and the Tetons in Wyoming as well as the rain forests of Belize and Australia.



“Enveloped in the Restoration Ecology program is the unique experience to use the Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary as a means of merging classroom knowledge with the physical practice of restoration.”

Kasey Carlisle
Paulding, Ohio
Restoration Ecology
Class of 2009
sampling water quality
at the Thoreau Wildlife
Sanctuary

Student Ecology Club

This organization was established to promote ecological restoration, develop/restore small ecosystems, and increase environmental awareness by connecting with nature through positive learning experiences which will benefit ourselves, our environment, and wildlife in our community. Member are responsible for the campus-wide recycling program and road-side pickup. This club is open to any student with an interest in environmental issues and the outdoors.

Defiance College admits students regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or disability. 6/08

Come for a Visit!

A campus visit is the best way to find out how Defiance College defies the ordinary college experience. We'll arrange for you to meet with an admissions counselor, professors, coaches, students, and learn about scholarship and financial aid opportunities. You can sit in on a class, tour campus, and stay overnight if you wish. Call our Office of Admissions at 419-784-4010 or 1-800-520-GO DC to set up your appointment.