

Conservation Biology at Trent

Entering the conservation profession has never been more critical and important to a local and global environment. At Trent University, students learn to speak to citizens and practitioners about effective, evidence-based conservation measures. They gain hands-on experience and exposure to scientific and societal issues. Through workshops, they learn the norms of professional practice, and these students are ready to apply their skills and knowledge to help achieve conservation goals.

You will learn from Trent faculty who are productive researchers and effective conservationists. Faculty instruct students on the key concepts —in conservation genetics, population ecology, species-at-risk policy, evolution, and the theory and practice of resource management. Students' skills in solving problems and communicating science are highly developed to best convey scientific knowledge to non-specialists.

Conservation Biology Co-op

In the Conservation Biology Co-op degree program, you will experience a true job search process where you submit applications and compete for jobs. You will have 3 paid work terms that alternate with academic semesters, set learning objectives and submit a self-evaluation for each of your work terms. Your employer will also evaluate your performance.

Conservation Biology Co-op is a competitive direct-entry program with a limited number of spaces.

Program Requirements for Admission into Co-op:

- A minimum 80% cumulative average in six Ontario 4Y or 4M courses including ENG4U, SCH4U, SBI4U and MHF4U or MCV4U.

To remain in the co-op, students must:

- Maintain a minimum 80% cumulative average in all BIOL and BIOC courses throughout your study terms.
- Successfully complete the required Co-op course (COOP 2000H) with a grade of 70%+
- Complete three co-op work terms (COOP 2100P, 3100P, 4100P).
- Receive satisfactory evaluations in all work terms.

Conservation Biology Co-op Work Term Schedule

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Year 1	Study Term 1	Study Term 2	Study Term 3
Year 2	Study Term 4	Study Term 5	Work Term 1
Year 3	Study Term 6	Study Term 7	Work Term 2
Year 4	Work Term 3	Study Term 8	

All co-op students are encouraged to meet with an Academic Advisor for degree mapping and to ensure they are meeting all their program requirements. You can book an appointment on the Student Experience Portal (trentu.ca/sep) or by calling (705) 748-1011 ext. 1488.

Please Note: Co-op is meant to prepare students for the real-world job application process and as such, the co-op process is competitive and dependent on many factors including market conditions, the student's efforts to secure a work term, and the academic performance of a student. Every effort is made to find suitable co-op work terms for students, but a work term opportunity cannot be guaranteed for every student. Co-op students will secure positions through successful participation in the co-op interview process and/or their own job search activities. Withdrawal from the co-op program will not normally be approved while a student is on a work term.

Students who are unable to obtain a suitable co-op opportunity in an upcoming work term are expected to continue with their academic program on a full-time basis. A missed work term can be made up. If a co-op student is unable to complete three work terms yet otherwise fulfills degree requirements, they will be awarded an Honours Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology.

Students do not pay tuition during each work term. Students are required to pay co-op fees plus ancillary fees and levies. The Co-op Assistance Program is available to support students in financial need with co-op expenses. For more information, please reach out to coop@trentu.ca.

Students with Disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please contact sas@trentu.ca for more support.

International Students As of April 1, 2026, international post-secondary students no longer need a co-op work permit to participate in a mandatory work component of their study program. To be eligible for student work placements, you must have a valid study permit that includes authorization to work on campus. For full eligibility requirements and updates on working in Canada as an international student, visit [Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/2026/04/new-co-op-work-permit-requirements.html).

Sample Work Term Areas for Conservation Biology:

- Conservation Officer
- Education & Outreach Assistant
- Field Technician
- Invasive Species Technician
- Lab Technician

Potential Career Paths for a Conservation Biology Graduate:

- Ecologist
- Environmental Consultant
- Policy Analyst
- Water Technologist
- Wildlife Technician

