

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 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).
- Successfully complete three co-op preparation workshops; resumes and cover letters, interview skills and workplace professionalism.
- Receive satisfactory evaluations in all work terms.

After graduation, students will understand:

- Theoretical principles of ecology and evolution
- Endangered species legislation, regulatory instruments, and international conservation conventions
- Organismal biology, systems of classification, and species' responses to environmental change
- Genetic basis for adaptation to modern environments
- How to work with a team to promote mutual goals in conserving biodiversity
- How to detect and diagnose population declines and estimate probabilities of persistence



All co-op students are encouraged to meet with the Biology Department Coordinator & Advisor for degree mapping and to ensure they are meeting all their program requirements. You can book an appointment by emailing tracyross@trentu.ca or by calling 705-748-1011 x6154.

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. The Placement Coordinator will help and guide you through the process. It is preferred that no more than two of the three work terms are with the same employer. 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 later in the program. In the event that a Co-op student is unable to complete three work terms, but fulfills the remainder of the degree requirements, the student will be awarded an Honours Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology. Students are encouraged to meet with the Biology Placement Officer along with the Biology Department Coordinator & Advisor each year to confirm they are meeting program requirements.

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.

International Students who are required to complete co-op work terms that are integral to their academic program must apply for a co-op work permit. Please reach out to internationaladvising@trentu.ca for more support.

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

Students can expect to work in a wide range of areas during their co-op work terms. A Conservation Biology student has a multitude of skills and knowledge that can be applied to diverse fields. These students are excellent communicators, critical thinkers, observers and analyzers, advocates, and social change makers. The work opportunities for these students are endless! These are some areas that Conservation Biology Co-op students can expect to work in during their co-op work terms:

- Animal Care Specialist
- Community Development
- Conservation Officer
- Data Officer
- Education & Outreach Assistant
- Environmental Consulting
- Environmental Planning
- Field Technician
- Invasive Species Technician
- Lab Technician
- Landscape Ecologist
- Program Coordinator
- Project Officer
- Protected Areas Information Officer
- Research Assistant
- Rehabilitation Assistant
- Restoration Assistant
- Water Technologist
- Wildlife Technician