Reclamation, Environment and Conservation

What is Reclamation, Environment and Conservation?
Reclamation, Environment and Conservation (REC) is an interdisciplinary program of applied scientific practices for restoring, reclaiming, and managing degraded habitats, landscapes, and ecosystems. Historically, REC emphasized mining-related impacts to land and water. Today, REC is inclusive of conservation-related impacts from the tundra to the tropics. Emerging ecological restoration issues range from agricultural impacts to the control of weedy exotics, from wetlands to urban renewal.

The REC program at UW-Platteville, initiated in 1980, is presently the oldest four-year reclamation major in the United States. The program, strongly grounded in the traditional sciences of biology, geology, chemistry, and ecology, includes courses in communication, project management, civil engineering, agriculture, soil science, environmental law, and geographic information systems.

Requirements
The REC major has core requirements of 40–46 credits and a choice of three emphases (biological, chemical, or physical) of 13–19 credits. The core requirements include classes in chemistry, trigonometry, soils, engineering, technical writing, hydrology, reclamation and environmental law.

Emphasis Areas
1. Biological
2. Chemical
3. Physical

The biological emphasis includes field zoology, plant taxonomy and soil fertility. The chemical emphasis includes advanced environmental chemistry. The physical emphasis includes studies in geology, physics, cartography, and geographic information systems.

Faculty and Facilities
REC majors have open access to the facilities of all supporting programs. Facilities include computer and science laboratories, a greenhouse, and the Pioneer Agriculture Stewardship Farm. Russell Hall serves as a meeting and study area, and houses job and internship announcements. Career placement bulletins and civil service announcements are displayed on bulletin boards.

High School Preparation
Students considering a career in reclamation, environment, and conservation should have an interest in the sciences, especially the field sciences of geology, ecology, botany, and soils. Prospective REC students should also enjoy being outdoors and working with other people. Good communication skills in both writing and speaking are helpful.

Outstanding Career Opportunities
REC graduates predominantly work within their chosen field. Recent employers include Applied Ecological Services, Badger Mining, Dakota Environmental Ecological Restoration Services, the Habitat Management Inc., Michels Corp., Natural Resource Conservation Service, Braun Intertec Corp., RMT Engineering, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and R.A. Smith & Associates (environmental consultants). The UW-Platteville program achieved national prominence in 1984 and is now known as a center for environmental education. As the field increases in its demands for highly trained personnel, some students choose to attend graduate school or law school.

The quality of the REC program at UW-Platteville is evidenced by the excellent reviews provided by employers of our student interns and graduates by recognition from the American Society for Mining and Reclamation and by the reputation of the supporting programs upon which REC is based.

UW-Platteville is prominent in soil science, and the civil engineering program is fully accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. The Platteville student chapters of American Society of Civil Engineering, Soil and Water Conservation, Agronomy, and American Society for Mining and Reclamation are among the top chapters in the U.S. and Canada.

Internships
REC majors are strongly encouraged to participate in a summer internship. Summer internships in the professional sector provide excellent work maturity skills, on the job training, interaction with professional people, and opportunities for employment after graduation.
Extracurricular Activities
The Reclamation Club was the first student chapter of the ASMR, the major professional society for reclamationists in North America, and was chartered at UW-Platteville in 1984. The Reclamation Club is also affiliated with the National Association of Environmental Professionals. The chapter maintains close contact with the profession through a student-authored newsletter, off-campus field trips, guest speakers, and attendance at professional meetings. It also provides frequent social gatherings for students.

The UW-Platteville soils team is another popular activity for REC students. This team has won many top honors in the last two decades in national competitions.

Non-traditional and Transfer Students
Nontraditional and transfer students fit into the reclamation program with relative ease. Students are individually advised with regard to courses and credits. Because of the flexibility of the program, credit transfer is handled as a normal procedure.

For More Information
Visit www.uwplatt.edu/agriculture.
For more information on the REC major write to the School of Agriculture, UW-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville WI 53818-3099, or call 608.342.1393.

For general information on the university and its programs, consult the website at www.uwplatt.edu or contact Admission and Enrollment Services, UW-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville WI 53818-3099, or call toll free 1.877.897.5288 or locally 608.342.1127.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, handicap, sex, sexual orientation, developmental disability, national origin, ancestry, marital status, arrest record, or conviction record.

Suggested Course of Study

First Year
First Semester
ENGL 1130 Freshman Comp I 3
GEOL 1140 Physical Geology 4
CHEM 1140 General Chemistry 4
RECL 1010 Intro to Reclamation 3
Fine Arts Elective 3
Second Semester
ENGL 1230 Freshman Comp II 3
CHEM 1240 General Chemistry 4
MATH 2530 Trigonometry 4
Humanities Elective 3
PE 1000 Fitness Assessment/Mgt 1
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Second Year
First Semester
SCSC 2230 Soils 4
CHEM 3110 Environ Chem Lab 1
CHEM 3130 Environ Chem 3
COSC 1830 Microcomputer Applic 3
Social Science Elective 3
Second Semester
GE 1320 Engineering/Comp Graph 2
SPCH 1010 Public Speaking 2
ENGL 3000 Technical Writing 3
BIOL 1350 General Botany 5
Emphasis Elective 3
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Third Year
First Semester
BIOL 3430 General Ecology 3
CEE 2630 Elements of Surveying 3
GEOG 3230 Intro to Geographic Info Systems 4
AGET 3950 Soil and Water Conserv Eng 3
Historical Perspective Elective 3
Second Semester
RECL 3900 Reclamation Field Trip (mid May-June) 3
MATH 2430 Elementary Statistics 3
PE 1XXX Physical Activity 1
Social Science Elective 3
RECL 3020 Reclamation Revegetation 3
Emphasis Elective 3
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Fourth Year
First Semester
RECL 4660 Coop Field Experience (Summer) 3
CEE 3020 Construction Engineering 3
Emphasis Elective 3
GEOL 3430 Hydrogeology 3
Humanities Elective - 2nd Course 3
Second Semester
Emphasis Elective 3
RECL 4930 Reclamation Project Manag. 3
RECL 3800 Environmental Law 3
Emphasis Elective 3
Social Science Elective - 2nd Course 3
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Total Credits 120