The SUNY-ESF Ranger School in Wanakena, N.Y., offers students a unique educational experience in a spectacular natural setting. The Ranger School, part of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), confers the associate in applied science (A.A.S.) degree. The A.A.S. degree can open doors to forest technology, natural resources conservation or land surveying technology careers or it can serve as a hands-on, experience-based step toward a bachelor of science degree.

The Ranger School’s one-plus-one plan allows students to complete their first-year degree requirements at the college of their choice, including ESF’s Syracuse campus if admitted as a first-year student. The second-year degree requirements are completed at The Ranger School. Many graduates continue on to complete a bachelor’s degree program at the ESF Syracuse campus or other colleges and universities.

The 2,800-acre campus, located in the heart of the six million-acre Adirondack Park, supports the field-based, hands-on education which is a hallmark of The Ranger School experience. Students learn to use equipment and tools specific to their academic program. The main campus building houses state-of-the-art facilities including classrooms, conference room, library, drafting lab and computer lab. Students also live in the building sharing comfortable residence hall rooms, eating and socializing in the dining center and spending their free time in the entertainment and recreation areas.
Academic Programs

Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation
The environmental and natural resources conservation program provides students with the scientific theory and applied skills necessary for a technical career in the environmental and natural resources sector. This program will provide students with a solid grounding in applied ecological and sociopolitical concepts, accompanied by technical training in plant and tree identification, land surveying, natural resources measurements, geospatial applications, soil and water monitoring, wildlife techniques, and forest recreation.

The knowledge and skill set provided by this program will meet the career objectives of applicants seeking employment as field or laboratory technicians in the environmental and natural resources sector, such as environmental conservation, recreation, wildlife, forestry, and soil and water conservation. This program will also be of value to those wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree or other additional education and training.

Forest Technology
The forest technology program provides students with a unique combination of knowledge and skills. Students learn about all aspects of forest technology through a carefully planned combination of classroom lectures, demonstration and hands-on fieldwork. The curriculum’s emphasis is on fundamental forestry knowledge and applied field training as well as the relationship between forest technology and managerial needs.

This degree provides students with knowledge of the field practice of forest management, the ability to work and communicate effectively with professional and para-professional personnel, and an understanding of the physical, biological and quantitative aspects of forestry.

The A.A.S. degree in forest technology is accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). SAF is recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation as the specialized accrediting body of forestry in the United States.

Ranger School forest technology graduates are generally classified as forest technicians or forestry aides in initial employment positions. Forestry agencies and wood-using industries employ forest technicians as an important part of their forest management teams, usually as the “people on the ground” who plan and execute the field practice of forestry, normally under the supervision of a professional forester.

Land Surveying Technology
The land surveying technology program provides students with a combination of surveying and land resource knowledge and related skills which are not available anywhere else. Students learn through a combination of classroom lectures, demonstrations and hands-on experience. The program teaches the fundamentals of forest technology while providing a more in-depth education in surveying technology.

This degree provides the student with knowledge and skills in surveying measurements and computations; the ability to work and communicate effectively with professional land surveyors, survey technicians, lawyers, and the general public; an understanding of the principles and practices of surveying with particular emphasis on boundary surveying; and an understanding of land resource concepts important to the surveyor.

The A.A.S. degree in land surveying technology is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission.

Opportunities are available with professional surveying companies, civil engineering companies and utility corporations. Public agencies employing land surveying technicians include city, county and state surveying offices and federal agencies. Responsibilities include researching deeds, compiling and analyzing data, map making and writing deed descriptions.
Life in Wanakena

The Ranger School is located on the banks of the Oswegatchie River near the hamlet of Wanakena, approximately 65 miles northeast of Watertown, and 35 miles west of Tupper Lake. The buildings, grounds and forest border the river, which flows directly into Cranberry Lake. This managed forest, containing both hardwood and coniferous species, covers nearly 3,000 acres. On three sides, the forest is bounded by state forest preserve lands. These forest preserve lands contain old-growth forests and abundant wildlife, and provide numerous recreational opportunities.

The Ranger School main building facilities include classrooms, laboratories, student lounge, faculty and staff offices, library, dining room and student residence.

The close proximity of faculty offices and student quarters and the intensive fieldwork allow students to consult easily and frequently with the faculty. A close student-faculty relationship is a major benefit of the program.

A library of approximately 1,500 volumes consists of highly specialized books, journals and multimedia materials. Students also have online access to the full range of library resources provided through SUNY-ESF’s Moon Library. Wireless access to the internet is provided throughout the building.

Students attending The Ranger School are required to live in the student residence. An exception may be made for married students who bring their families and rent their own private accommodations in the vicinity. Such accommodations are not plentiful. Each married student should make rental arrangements well in advance of the registration date.

Health services for Ranger School students are provided by physicians as well as an excellent community hospital and clinic in nearby Star Lake, N.Y. In emergency situations, the school transports students to the local physician of their choice or to the hospital. Students are required to obtain coverage for health insurance.

Textbooks are purchased by the student from a supplier of their choice. A list is provided to the student with specific information for textbooks. Other academic supplies are distributed at the school. During the first year of the one-plus-one program, students are guided by the rules and regulations that govern student life at the college they attend. During the second year of the one-plus-one program, students are guided by the rules and regulations for College of Environmental Science and Forestry students enrolled at The Ranger School.
Outside the classroom, Ranger School students become engaged in a variety of team and club activities. These activities have included timber sports, ice hockey, a sportsmen’s club, an outing club, and other interests. No previous experience is necessary to participate.

Within an hour drive of Wanakena are the communities of Watertown, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake offering cultural and historical venues, sporting events, shopping, dining and entertainment. The surrounding Adirondack Park encompasses numerous lakes and rivers, extensive trail systems and wilderness areas which offer opportunities for year-round outdoor recreational pursuits such as canoeing/kayaking, hiking, fishing, bicycling, skiing and camping.
Visiting The Ranger School

The faculty and staff at The Ranger School welcome visits by prospective students and their families to learn more about the programs and facilities and tour the campus with members of the staff or faculty. Daily visits, including weekends, may be arranged directly with The Ranger School. Open House events are scheduled each October and April offering an overview of Ranger School academic and student life, faculty information sessions, a campus tour, a mini-field experience and complimentary lunch.

To arrange for a visit or for questions about academic and student life contact The Ranger School at (315) 848-2566 or rangerschool@esf.edu.

The Application Process

High school students may apply for admission during their senior year through the Guaranteed Transfer pathway. This allows them to complete the application process at the same time they are applying for their first-year college choice. If admitted, the Admissions Office staff, located at the Syracuse campus, will work closely with them to ensure their preparation for transfer to The Ranger School campus for the second-year program. College students should apply for transfer during the academic year preceding their expected year of entry at The Ranger School. More information about admission and the application process may be found at www.esf.edu/rangerschool/admission.htm

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the Syracuse campus reviews and makes admissions decisions for Ranger School candidates. Questions about admission criteria, processes and policies for The Ranger School programs should be directed to this office at (315) 470-6600 or esfinfo@esf.edu.

Combining Associate and Bachelor Degrees

Many Ranger School students are interested in combining their associate’s degree with a bachelor’s degree to enhance their career opportunities. Ranger School graduates who go on to pursue the bachelor’s degree have strong field experience, knowledge of management practices and a deeper understanding of the ecological and social forces at work in the career fields they will enter.

Ranger School students have gone on to pursue various bachelor degree programs offered at ESF. Most students internally transfer to programs offered by the Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management and some gravitate to the programs in the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology. The programs in these departments are closely aligned with the focus and course requirements of the A.A.S. degrees. Associate degree course work applicable to programs in other departments may be limited. Students interested in completing a baccalaureate degree at the ESF Syracuse campus should consult with an advisor in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to explore internal transfer pathways.

The One-Plus-One Program: First-Year Requirements

The following first year course work must be completed prior to enrollment at The Ranger School:

- General Biology I with laboratory
- Second General Science with laboratory (Chemistry I, Physics I or Biology II as determined by A.A.S. program)
- Trigonometry, Precalculus or Calculus
- College English I and II (composition and/or literature)
- Economics, Government or Policy

Prospective students should consult with an advisor in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for course selection to meet these requirements.

After completing the first-year requirements, students begin their studies at The Ranger School in mid-August and conclude the degree program at graduation in late May. There is no spring semester entry at The Ranger School.
Where do Ranger School Graduates Work?

The Ranger School assists graduates with career planning and placement. The excellent reputation which our alumni have developed in all types of forestry, natural resource conservation, and surveying jobs greatly assists today’s graduates as they find employment. Employment is common with local, state and federal forestry and land resource agencies, private forestry enterprises and surveying firms. Approximately one-half of Ranger School graduates choose to continue their college education and obtain a bachelor’s degree. A Ranger School degree provides excellent preparation for a career or for additional college education.

**U.S. Forest Service (MT, NC, CA, OR, CO)**
- Forest technician, survey technician, forest fire fighter, biological technician

**U.S. Department of Interior – Park Service (MT, OR, MA, NC, CO, VA)**
- Park ranger, park police

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (NC)**
- Wildland firefighter

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**
- Forest ranger, conservation officer, forest technician, assistant forest ranger, wildlife technician, environmental engineer 2

**New York State Department of Transportation**
- Survey technician, construction inspector

**New York City Department of Environmental Protection**
- Manager — Stream Management Program

**St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District (NY)**
- Manager

**Baillie Lumber Co. (NY)**
- Forest technician

**Bartlett Tree Expert Co. (MA, CT, NY, SC)**
- Tree care technician, pesticide applicator

**Berry Brothers Lumber (NY)**
- Timber cruiser

**Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. (NY)**
- Survey technician

**Cayuga Tree Service (NY)**
- Tree care technician

**Chazen Engineering and Land Surveying (NY)**
- Survey party chief

**Chippers Land Enhancement (VT)**
- Forest technician

**Davey Tree Expert Co. (NY, SC, PA)**
- Tree care technician

**General Timber Corporation (NY)**
- Log buyer/forester

**Green Island Construction Co. (NY)**
- Survey technician

**International Paper (ME, NY)**
- Forest technician

**Jeff Pederson Logsmith (ID)**
- Log home builder

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**
- Forest technician

**Mead Westvaco (SC, KY, WV)**
- Forest technician

**MJ Engineering and Land Surveying (NY)**
- Survey party chief

**Poli Engineering Consulting and Surveying (NY)**
- Survey technician

**SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry**
- Research technician

**Vegetation Control Service (MA)**
- Pesticide applicator, tree care technician

**Walter and Sons Tree Service (NY)**
- Tree care foreperson

**Wengler Surveying & Mapping (WA)**
- Professional land surveyor

**Wethersfield (NY)**
- Associate manager and head gardener
Located on the banks of the Oswegatchie River near the hamlet of Wanakena, approximately 65 miles northeast of Watertown and 35 miles west of Tupper Lake, along NYS Route 3. It is around 3 hours from ESF main campus in Syracuse, New York.