Gender breakdown for undergraduates in colleges and departments affiliated with NAUFRP

Trends in gender in natural resources and conservation academic areas

Academic areas with female undergraduate enrollment increasing over time

Academic areas where male/female breakdown in enrollment is consistent

For the August newsletter we return again to gender in undergraduate enrollment, this time for the 66 colleges and departments affiliated with the National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP), a national organization representing the Natural Resources Conservation and Forestry programs at Land-grant and non-Land-grant institutions.

Overall trends in gender in natural resources and conservation academic areas

We first explored the overall gender trends for natural resource and conservation programs for the reporting years of 2004 to 2011 for NAUFRP institutions. Figure 1 offers the baccalaureate enrollment with respect to gender for eight natural resources and conservation academic areas: 1) environmental science and studies, 2) fisheries and wildlife, 3) forestry, 4) natural resources conservation and management, 5) natural resources recreation, 6) range science and management, 7) watershed science and management, and 8) wood science/products.

Based on our analyses we found the following results.

- From 2004 to 2011, more undergraduate males were enrolled in natural resources and conservation programs than female undergraduate females. During this time, the enrollment of undergraduate males increased by 25.8% and the enrollment of undergraduate females increased by 66.1%.

Figure 1. Baccalaureate Enrollment in natural resources and conservation programs at NAUFRP institutions.
Academic Areas with Female Undergraduate Enrollment Increasing Over Time

We found that within three academic areas, female undergraduate enrollment increased over time. These academic areas included environmental science and studies (Figure 2), natural resources conservation and management (Figure 3), and fisheries and wildlife (Figure 4).

In environmental science and studies programs from 2004 to 2011, female undergraduate enrollment increased by 102.9%. In natural resources conservation and management programs, female undergraduate enrollment increased by 97.4%. In fisheries and wildlife programs, female undergraduate enrollment increased by 64.2%.

Figure 2. Baccalaureate Enrollment in Environmental Science and Studies at NAUFRP Institutions.

Figure 3. Baccalaureate Enrollment in Natural Resources Conservation and Management at NAUFRP Institutions.

Figure 4. Baccalaureate Enrollment in Fisheries and Wildlife at NAUFRP Institutions.

Academic areas where Male/Female Breakdown in Undergraduate Enrollment is Consistent

The male/female breakdown in undergraduate enrollment stayed roughly consistent for 2004 to 2011 in the following academic areas: forestry (Figure 5), wood science/products (Figure 6), and natural resources recreation (Figure 7).

In forestry undergraduate programs from 2004 to 2011, female enrollment increased by 1.1% (7 students) and male enrollment increased by 2.7% (79 students). In wood science/products undergraduate programs, female enrollment increased by 20.8% (15 students) and male enrollment increased by 29.5% (135 students). In natural resources recreation undergraduate programs, female enrollment increased by 48.2% (411 students) and male enrollment increased by 17.6% (267 students).

Figure 5. Baccalaureate Enrollment in Forestry at NAUFRP Institutions.

Figure 6. Baccalaureate Enrollment in Wood Science/Products at Land-Grant Institutions.

Figure 7. Baccalaureate Enrollment in Natural Resources Recreation at NAUFRP Institutions.
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