

## Virginia Tech's natural resources program ranked No. 1 in nation for second straight year

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Oct. 3, 2016 — For the second year in a row, USA Today has ranked Virginia Tech as the nation's best for studying natural resources and conservation.

"This ranking raises awareness of the quality of our academic programs in the college and helps us benchmark our programs in a national context," said Paul Winistorfer, dean of Virginia Tech's [College of Natural Resources and Environment](#)<sup>[1]</sup>. "Our faculty are the foundation of all we do, and I am immensely proud of this ranking and the spotlight it shines on our faculty and staff."

Last year was the first time that natural resources programs were ranked. Ranking organizations traditionally focus on areas of study with the highest numbers of programs.

According to USA Today, natural resources and conservation programs have become critical to solving many of the world's pressing issues today so the publication started evaluating the nearly 50 comprehensive natural resources programs in colleges across America.

The rankings show Virginia Tech has the best overall program in the nation in both natural resources and conservation. Forestry also ranks No. 1. Long a world leader in research and teaching, the forestry department ranked eighth in research dollars among all academic departments at Virginia Tech for the past year.

The natural resources and conservation component includes the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, which was fifth in total research dollars awarded for the past year. Total research dollars awarded for the college in 2015-16 were a record-breaking \$21.5 million. ([continue reading.....](#)<sup>[2]</sup>)

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### Links

[1]. <http://cnre.vt.edu>

[2]. [http://vtnews.vt.edu/content/vtnews\\_vt\\_edu/en/articles/2016/09/cnre-topranking.html](http://vtnews.vt.edu/content/vtnews_vt_edu/en/articles/2016/09/cnre-topranking.html)