

LAND YOUR RIVER CAREER

River Studies & Leadership Certificate



From top to bottom: Measuring a fish during the Rockfish River Sampling; Looking for specimens during the Rockfish River sampling; Fall 2019 RSLC Float on the Lower James River. All photos by James Vonesh.

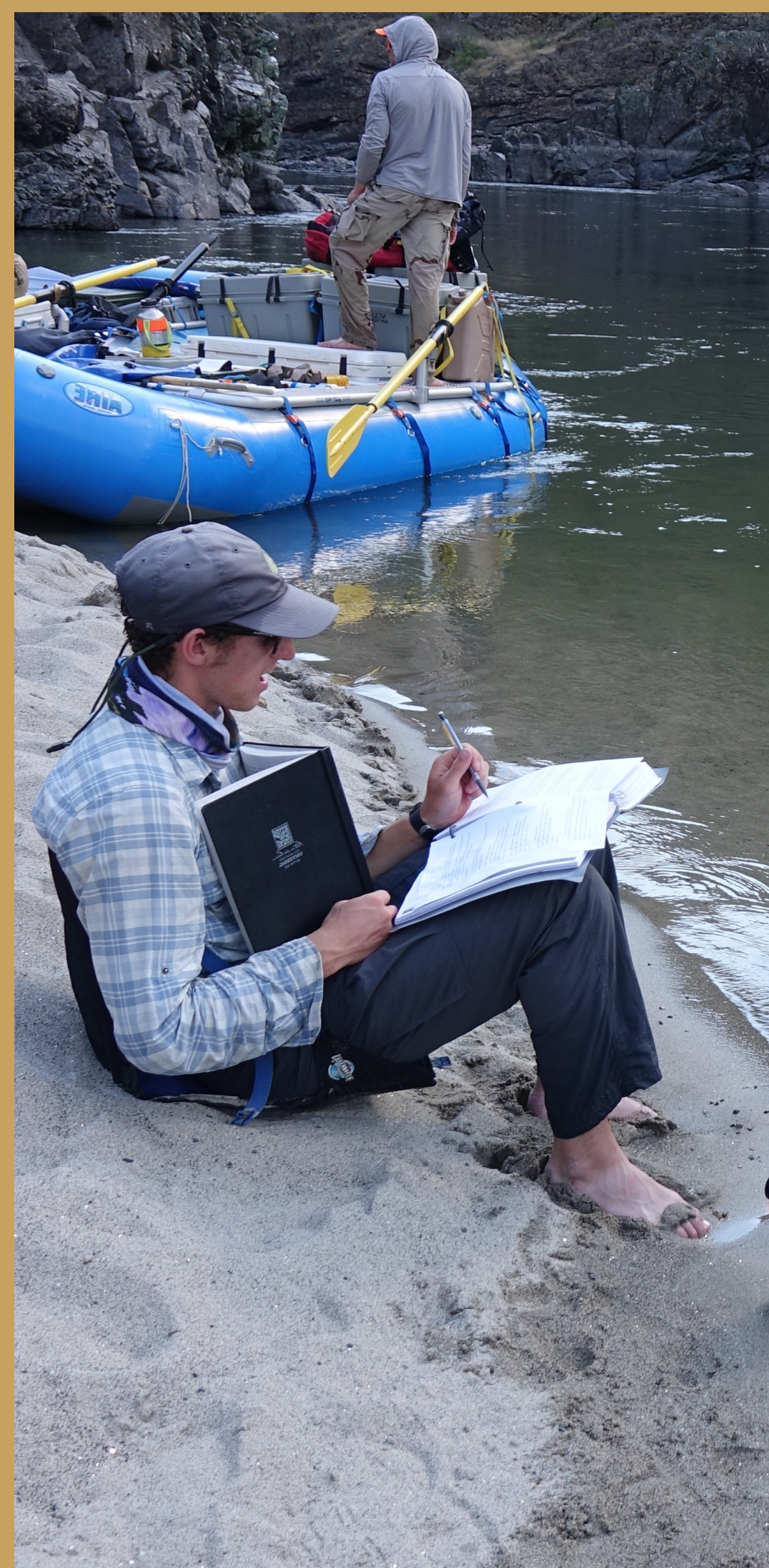
The River Studies and Leadership Certificate (RSLC) invites undergraduate and graduate students to join the next generation of river professionals with a foundation of knowledge, skills, and experience in river-based science, policy, conservation, education, and recreation.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The River Management Society (RMS) is proud to be partnering with a cohort of universities and colleges to offer the RSLC program, with a certificate awarded upon completion of river-focused coursework and a river-related professional project by RMS.

Faculty members from these institutions collaborate with students to design and complete a personalized academic program that empowers them to address the real-world challenges facing our nation's rivers.

Each student's program is vetted by industry professionals, practitioners, and academics from RMS and partner institutions.



A student reviews notes while in camp during the Summer 2018 VCU Salmon River Expedition. Photo by James Vonesh.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ➔ Students will have a working knowledge of Geographical Information Systems with potential application to river systems.
- ➔ Students will have a working knowledge of the basic physical and biological environment and processes of river systems.
- ➔ Students will have a working knowledge of river safety and rescue, and basic river navigation and travel, including river-based Leave No Trace.
- ➔ Students will choose an emphasis within river studies and take courses that support that specialization.
- ➔ Students will acquire hands-on experience with river-related project(s) via an internship, professional employment, or independent study.

CERTIFICATE COMPONENTS

Core Courses (4 courses):

Students must successfully complete approved courses in the following subjects:

- Geographic Information Systems (1 course)
- River Science (1 course)
- River Policy (1 course)
- River Safety (1 course)

Emphasis Courses (2 courses):

Students must take at least two approved courses from ONE of the following emphasis areas:

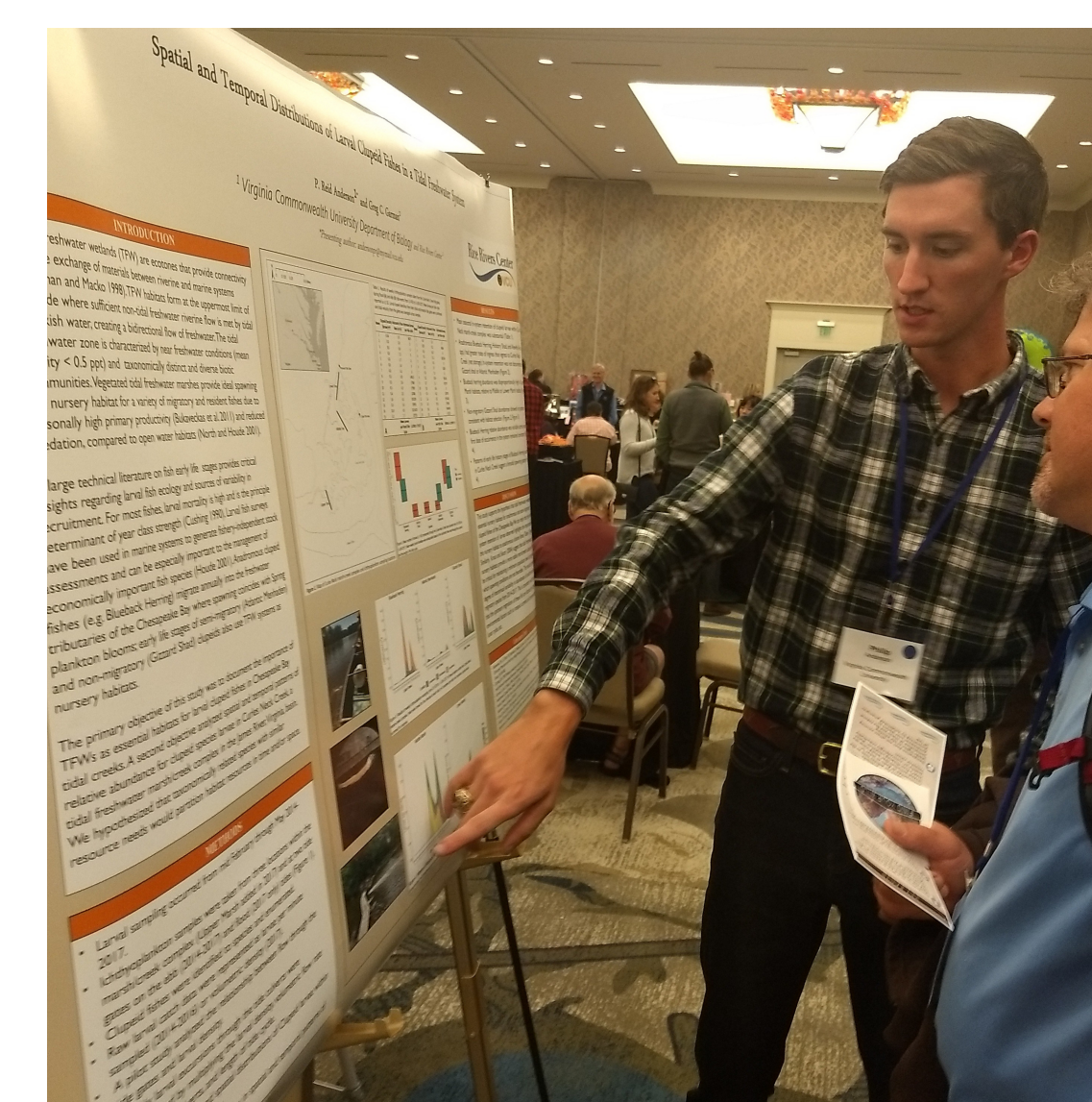
- River Science
- River-based Policy and Management
- River-based Recreation, Education, and Tourism

Professional Experience Requirement

RSLC students demonstrate "real-world" application of their knowledge and skills through professional experience or an internship with a river project. This requirement may be met through a credit-earning internship, paid internship, paid professional experience, independent study, or course-related professional experience.

Oral/Written Presentation Requirement

Students are required to share their river studies with the RMS community by either presenting at the biennial RMS Symposium or publishing an article in the RMS Journal. Financial assistance may be available to RSLC students for conference travel and expenses.



Clockwise from top left: A student conducts sampling on Reedy Creek in VA; Students practice repacking throw-bags during a river safety course; A student takes notes during a field course on the James River; RSLC student, Anderson Reid, presents a poster at the 2018 River Management Symposium. Photos by James Vonesh.

GRADUATES

RSLC graduates have gone on to work for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and several private companies in fields including aquatic science, fisheries management, hydrology, geographic information systems (GIS), and outdoor recreation.



Students from NAU visit the Klickitat Wild & Scenic River on a field course. Photo by Denielle Perry.

Recent examples of jobs acquired by RSLC graduates

- Katie Guetz, Land Steward, Teton Regional Land Trust
- Lindsay Hansen, Fish Ecologist Contractor, US Geological Survey
- James Major - National Rivers Project Coordinator, River Management Society
- Ross Parsons - Salmon Wild and Scenic River River Ranger, Bureau of Land Management
- Katie Schmidt - Lapham River Conservation Fellow, American Rivers
- Sarah Smith - Research Assistant, Santa Fe National Forest



(Left) Students from VCU listen to a BLM River Ranger on the Salmon River in Idaho while on a field-based course. (Right) Students, advisors, and river managers network during the 2018 River Management Symposium in Vancouver, WA. Photos by James Vonesh.

LEARN MORE



GET INVOLVED!



**River
Management
Society**

The mission of the River Management Society is to support professionals who study, protect, and manage North America's rivers.