

College Botany Program

The Morton Arboretum and Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area



Forest Ecology in a Changing World Travel to Costa Rica with The Morton Arboretum

Learn about forests, what they are, how they function, and why they are so important for our future.

Trees and forests in urban areas and in the wild provide essential benefits to society and the environment but face increasing challenges that put them at risk. We will explore forest ecology through three units that include presentations, discussion, and field exploration:

1. Ecological principles at four major scales of biological organization (individual, populations, communities, ecosystems) with an emphasis on forests
2. Applications of these principles to current environmental problems impacting forests (the biodiversity crisis, global climate and environmental change, and others)
3. Current methods in forest ecology

The course will take place in person and online, and includes a combination of field experiences, classroom instruction, and community engagement. Students will gain a rich understanding of the biodiversity, ecological importance, and sustainable development practices for temperate and tropical forests, and conduct field visits to research and restoration sites both in Northern Illinois and the Monteverde cloud forest of Costa Rica.

This project is partially funded by the Walder Family Foundation.

Credit

4 semester hours (or equivalent), upper division undergraduate

Course Dates

Saturdays and Thursdays, February 10 through May 29, 2024

In person: Six Saturdays: February 10, 24, March 2, 16, April 6, and 20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Online: Select Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Field experience in Costa Rica: May 22 to 29, 2024

Course Fees and Prerequisites

General biology and either introductory botany **OR** environmental science **OR** ecology **OR** permission of the instructor.

A course fee of \$1800, paid to the Arboretum, is required to register for the course. Students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from the course, including their own airfare to and from Costa Rica. Students must provide their own health insurance and must hold a valid passport with an expiration date later than September 2024.

Registration

Please register online at mortonarb.org/acca-forest-ecology **and** by contacting your advisor at your school.

Scholarships available

For more information on scholarships or with questions about registration, contact the Registrar's Office at The Morton Arboretum: Registrar-ed@mortonarb.org or 630-719-2468, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday