

## Certificate of Merit Curriculum<sup>1</sup>

<b>Core Lecture Studies<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Hours in each class</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
Ecology of the Blue Ridge	24	24
Geology	12	12
Meteorology	12	12
Water systems	12	12
Botany	24	24
Zoology of the Blue Ridge	24	24
Interpretive Theory	12	12

<b>Core Field Studies<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Hours in each class</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
Trees of the Blue Ridge		12
Spring Season	3	
Summer Season	3	
Fall Season	3	
Winter Season	3	

Native Plants/Flowers of the Blue Ridge		72
Spring	24	
Summer	24	
Fall	24	

**In addition, students must complete 36 hours of elective studies from the following areas:**

Insects	12 hours
Birds	12 hours
Reptiles and Amphibians	12 hours
Aquatic habitats	12 hours
Mammals	12 hours
Lichens	6 hours
Mosses	6 hours
Mushrooms	6 hours

### **Summary:**

Core Lecture Studies:	120 hours
Core Field Studies:	84 hours
Elective Studies	36 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>240 hours</b>

<sup>1</sup> As of July 1, 2010. Curriculum may be updated in the future; this action will not impact current students in the certificate of merit program.

<sup>2</sup> Classes considered "Lectures Studies" are held primarily in a classroom setting, but will also involve short walking field studies and field trips to regional sites.

<sup>3</sup> Classes considered "Field Studies" are held nearly entirely outdoors.