



STUDENT OPPORTUNITY  
ANNOUNCEMENT

Apply by May 31, 2026

**DATES**

July 21–25, 2026

**LOCATION**

Synergia Ranch, NM

**OPENINGS**

10 Students

**COST**

Free to Attend

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The FOR-NM (Forest Research for NM Water and Carbon Management) Academy is a fully-funded, one-week intensive field course for 10 undergraduate students enrolled at New Mexico universities. Students work alongside faculty and researchers from across the state to develop practical skills in ecosystem monitoring, field data collection, remote sensing, and community-engaged science.

The Academy is held at Synergia Ranch — a beautiful retreat 30 minutes south of Santa Fe, with on-site chef and accommodations for all dietary needs. Field trips take place at sites in the Santa Fe Watershed. All accommodations are fully covered, and students receive a travel stipend for roundtrip mileage.

This course is funded through a new National Science Foundation award to a consortium of New Mexico institutions: UNM, NMSU, WNMU, BEMP, and the Asombro Institute.

## CURRICULUM AREAS

### Watershed Structure & Function

Quantify ecosystem health and the flow of water and carbon through New Mexico watersheds.

### Terrestrial & Aquatic Ecology

Deploy sensors and collect real-time field data on streamflow, water quality, soil carbon, and vegetation.

### Plant & Soil Restoration

Measure forest management impacts on herbaceous plant communities and soil health at field sites.

### Community Engagement

Work directly with communities to identify and prioritize land and water management decisions.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand watershed structure–function relationships
2. Examine how management & disturbance alter watersheds
3. Identify key datasets for watershed assessment
4. Practice field and remote sensing data collection
5. Understand NM watershed policy and stakeholder needs
6. Apply community-engaged research methods
7. Communicate science to diverse public audiences
8. Build a statewide network of researchers and peers

## WHO SHOULD APPLY

- Current undergraduate enrolled at a New Mexico university
- Interest in ecology, hydrology, environmental science, or related fields
- Able to participate full-time July 21–25, 2026
- Willing to work outdoors in field conditions
- No prior research experience required

*Students from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply. The Academy especially welcomes applicants from groups historically underrepresented in the environmental sciences.*

**Questions? Contact:**

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