

Department of Forest Products

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The forest products industry is one of the largest economic contributors to Mississippi, as well as in the United States. Employment in the furniture, lumber, wood products, composites, and paper sectors of the economy far exceeds the employment of any other manufacturing sector in the state. Mississippi's forest products industry recognizes the need for well-trained employees to help increase the conversion efficiencies and alter manufacturing processes to allow compatibility with a changing raw material base. While the industry is large in terms of employment, value-added processing facilities number only a few thousand nationwide and a few hundred in Mississippi.

The mission of the Department of Forest Products is to enhance the intellectual, cultural, social, and professional development of its students by providing them with knowledge and skills needed to utilize and conserve diverse forest resources effectively. In this regard, the Department's primary teaching responsibility is to provide high quality educational opportunities necessary to adequately prepare students for professional and scientific careers in forest products and wood science. The academic major is fully accredited by the Society of Wood Science and Technology.

Presently, students interested in a forest products curriculum are now directed to the newly created Forest Products concentration within the Forestry Major and to the Forest Products graduate program.

The Department of Forest Products' physical plant consists of five buildings and other special purpose buildings and Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management, with a combined floor space in excess of 90,000 square feet. These buildings house the analytical and testing equipment, pilot plants, and support facilities required for a comprehensive research program involving wood and wood products.

Forest Products Minor

A Forest Products minor is available to non-majors to provide students with the knowledge of wood, wood products, their use, and importance to employers in many areas including construction, design, marketing and distributing, retail and wholesale management, sales, production, technical services, and scientific fields such as chemistry, engineering and industrial technology. A minor in Forest Products will also provide non-major students an excellent background for entering a graduate degree program in Forest Products. Academic advising is available in the Department of Forest Products located at 201 Locksley Way. A total of 18 hours is required to obtain a Forest Products minor. See Section II: Department Specific Policies for the list of requirements and course prerequisites.