Over 90% of Forestry alumni agree or strongly agree that the courses furnished them with a fundamental knowledge of the field and that the depth of the subject matter was adequate. This high caliber education translates into a Society of American Foresters accredited degree that has led to nearly three-quarters of alumni obtaining forestry or forestry-related careers. Twenty-two percent of alumni report attending graduate studies, of which 60% have already obtained their degree.

Forestry alumni are employed at every level of government, with private forestry and consulting industries, and with nonprofit/nongovernmental organizations. Examples of federal agency employers include the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, USDA NRCS, and US Fish & Wildlife Service. Although most state agency employers are located in the region, alumni are also employed outside of the region (Florida Division of Forestry, Illinois DNR, Michigan DNR, Minnesota DNR, Missouri Department of Conservation, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, North Carolina Wildlife Resource Comm., Texas Commission on Environmental Quality). Examples of local agency employers include City of Clayton, MO, Champaign Park District, Collinsville Area Park District, DuPage County Forest Preserve District, Linn County Conservation District, and McHenry County Conservation District. Private industry employers include Marion Plywood Corporation, Illinois Forest Products Company, Davey Resource Group, Environmental Consultants, Iowa Oak, Quality Forest Management, several electric companies, as well as Long Forestry Consultation, a local company owned by alumni. Examples of nonprofit organizations include the Parklands Foundation and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center.

In 2009, 250 recent graduates of Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s Department of Forestry were asked to complete a brief survey as part of the Society of American Foresters accreditation review process. The Department of Forestry received 104 completed questionnaires (42% response rate). The questionnaire asked alumni to rate the Department in how well the courses and instruction prepared them for their career. Additionally, the survey collected information on employment status and whether or not alumni pursued graduate study.