

Horticulture Technician

A Two -Year Ontario College
Co-operative Education Endorsed Diploma

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The Program

Horticulture Technician students are trained to design, build and maintain landscaped, gardens and interiorscapes for residential, commercial, institutional and recreational areas.

The Content

Courses include plant identification, arboriculture, landscape materials, field construction, equipment maintenance, business management, landscape design and plant production.

The Outcomes

Our graduates are trained to apply the principles of plant science along with the practical skills of construction and maintenance to landscape projects; to avoid environmental damage and promote healthy ecosystems.

Sample Co-op Progression Chart:

September Intake Only			
	Sept-Dec	Jan-Apr	May-Aug
Year 1	Academic Term 1	Academic Term 2	Work Term 1
Year 2	Academic Term 3	Academic Term 4	Work Term 2

Learning Outcomes

Year One:

- Develop plans/drawings from scanned surveys using Dynascape and hand drafting
- Calculate treatment areas and product requirements relating to pesticide/biological/fertilizer
- Recognize workplace hazards and take appropriate action to ensure a safe work environment
- Collect, prepare and submit soil samples for testing
- Identify woody evergreen plants used in the landscaping industry and that are hardy in Ontario
- Set up, maintain and perform minor repairs to outdoor power equipment used in the landscaping industry
- Identify and critically assess woody plant species in the landscape

Year Two:

- Identify pests and apply controls, utilizing Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Identify herbaceous and tropical plants including annuals
- Identify common turf pests, weeds, diseases and methods of control for each, develop a turf management program
- Conduct greenhouse activities including transplanting, seeding and watering
- Perform basic tree maintenance techniques consistent with current arboricultural practices
- Prepare a planting site, install plant materials
- Program, repair and winterize irrigation systems
- Perform basic landscape construction
- Interpret simple working drawings in order to layout a site for the construction
- Prepare a site for the installation of various types of paving and retaining wall materials
- Install precast paving materials (interlocking concrete pavers) on an aggregate base
- Build retaining walls and planters using precast concrete systems
- Install natural stone paving on an aggregate base

Course Outline

Level 1 – Take all of the following Mandatory Courses

WRIT-1036	Reason & Writing I – Art & Design
MATH-1159	Trade Calculations for Hort Tech
DESG-1061	Garden, Plan Interpretation & Surv
HORT-1011	Horticulture I
LAND-1004	Soils for Horticulture
WOOD-1011	Woody Deciduous Plant Identification
HORT-1032	Arboriculture I
COOP-1020	Co-op Ed Employment Prep

Level 2 – Take all of the following Mandatory Courses

Gen Ed – Take a 3 credit Gen. Ed. elective course	
COMM-3023	Comm for Designers, Planners, Techs
HORT-1029	The History of Gardens
MATS-1018	Landscape Materials
HORT-1053	Plant Health Care
HORT-1026	Hort II – Greenhouse Management
MOTP-1001	Equipment Maintenance
MTNC-1013	Landscape Equip Oper & Wrkpl Safety
WOOD-1019	Woody Evergreen Plant Identification

Level 3 – Take all of the following Mandatory Courses

Gen Ed – Take a 3 credit Gen. Ed. elective course	
MTNC-1017	Landscape & Garden Maintenance
HORT-3014	Arboriculture II
CONS-1039	Landscape Field Construction I
BUSI-1067	This Business of Landscaping
HORT-1031	Greenhouse Plant Identification
WOOD-3019	Herbaceous Plant Identification
COMP-1013	Dynascape for Garden Design

Level 4 – Take all of the following Mandatory Courses

CONS-3017	Landscape Field Construction II
ENVR-3005	Integrated Pest Management
HORT-3015	Greenhouse Plant Production II
HORT-3007	Annual & Tropical Plan ID
HORT-3008	Turf Management
MTNC-3004	Landscape & Garden Main

Program Requirements:

- Take two 3-credit General Education Elective Courses
- Program Residency

Students must complete a minimum of 20 credits in this program at Fanshawe College to meet the Program Residency requirement and graduate from this program.

Why Should You Hire a Co-operative Education Student?

Many employers feel today's graduates have no concept of the "real" world of work; we are providing this experience in Co-operative Education. Any job that gives the student related background in your business would be suitable.

Eligible employers can claim a tax credit for each qualifying work placement for up to \$3000.

Co-operative Education students are ultimately looking ahead to careers in businesses such as yours. For this reason they are not expecting to simply put in time on the job, but are eager to get involved and make a worthwhile contribution. Participation in co-operative education also gives the employer the opportunity to try out a student's capabilities without obligation or commitment to permanent employment.

This work oriented educational system integrates classroom study and paid, on-the-job work experience, by alternating periods in College with periods of employment by co-operating organizations. The work terms are spaced out through the academic program and students will be at various academic levels in successive work terms. The working experience will ideally increase in difficulty and responsibility as the student progresses academically. However, the College realizes it is often difficult in practice to do this.

It is essential that the work experience be a normal one; that the student be treated like a regular company employee so that a realistic picture of the working environment in that field may be obtained. Perhaps most important is what students gain from the working experience: an attitude for success and the ability to get along with co-workers at all levels.