

# Researching and Choosing a School

*Updated August, 2017*

This section is to help you determine what school best suits your learning style and training needs. It is your responsibility to investigate all of the available courses in your chosen field. If available, gather the information from a minimum of three schools and indicate which one you have chosen.

These questions will help you make the best choice when researching a training provider.

## School Description

### School: Fanshawe College

Contact person: Office of the Registrar, Phone: 519-452-4277

- Is this school registered as a Private Career College in Ontario? **No**
- If no, please explain: **Publicly funded college**
- Is this course eligible for OSAP funding? **Yes**
- Is this training provider certified to give T2202A tuition tax receipts? **Yes**

## Program/Certificate Information

### Program Name: Horticulture Technician – NOC 2225

A Co-operative Education Program

A Two-Year Ontario College Diploma Program

The Horticulture Technician diploma is a two-year co-op program with the emphasis on the practical aspects of horticulture. The course develops the academic and practical skill level in students that allow them to easily match a growing need in the green industry. All graduates can be fully employed in the field; there are, according to Landscape Ontario, the provincial trade organization, over 1600 positions available in horticulture in the province annually. Additionally, many opportunities exist out-of-province and even out-of-country.

The first year of the Horticulture Technician program is academic-centred while the emphasis in the second year is on hands-on practical training. Approximately 80% of the scheduled class time in the senior year is spent outside the classroom in courses such as Landscape Field Construction, Greenhouse Plant Production, Arboriculture and Garden and Landscape Maintenance.

Students and faculty participate in practical lab sessions while maintaining and redeveloping the grounds of the campus in real-time situations. The A.M. (Mac) Cuddy Gardens, in near-by Strathroy, greatly enhances the practical experience in a world-class estate garden which houses a remarkable collection of rare and endangered plants.

Students graduate with an Ontario College Diploma (co-operative education endorsed) and while in the program students are given the opportunity to complete optional training in chainsaw use and the provincial pesticide license. Fanshawe College is the first institution in North America to integrate the CLT (Certified Landscape Technician) a national standard of proficiency into the program. Students will complete practical and written tests during their senior year and if successful will also be able to add the CLT designation to their names.

All students, upon registration, become members of the Student Chapter of Landscape Ontario, the largest student driven chapter in the province.

Students participate in a number of professional opportunities at various shows throughout the year. In past years Fanshawe has won many medals both provincially and nationally in the Landscape Gardening Skills Competition. Students participate regularly in Landscape Congress in Toronto, building the entrance garden in their final semester. Senior students also volunteer in building gardens and assisting with the maintenance of gardens at Canada Blooms in Toronto. The Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington has signed a memorandum of understanding with Fanshawe College and as a result student experience is greatly enhanced through this partnership which includes both summer internships and programmed events at the gardens.

The College has active industry partnerships in areas such as: lawn and garden equipment and suppliers, greenhouse service suppliers, landscape suppliers and services as well as professional associations such as the Landscape Ontario, Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Royal Horticultural Society, Scottish Rock Garden Society, the North American Rock Garden Society, the Hardy Plant Society, the American Public Gardens Association and the Ontario Rock Garden Association and Hardy Plant Society.

Industry support and corporate sponsorship allows the program to use the latest technology, tools and equipment in the teaching labs, annually over \$100,000.00 of support is received from industry.

The Gardens of Fanshawe College and the A.M. (Mac) Cuddy Gardens are recognized as a botanical garden by Botanic Gardens Conservation International and are home to over one million plants of some 4,000 species. Most of the collections are labeled and are propagated in our greenhouse at Fanshawe and our nursery site in the A.M. (Mac) Cuddy Gardens in Strathroy. Ten students in the program maintain the gardens during summer under the supervision of our two staff horticulturists. Students will spend both class and independent practical periods at both locations. Our annual open garden and plant sale in June at the A.M. (Mac) Cuddy Gardens draws over one thousand visitors.

### **Co-operative Education**

This two-year program has two co-op work terms. Students who fulfill both the academic and co-op requirements of the program will be eligible to graduate with a co-op endorsed diploma. More information about co-operative education can be found at [www.fanshawec.ca/coop](http://www.fanshawec.ca/coop).

### **Program Eligibility Criteria**

#### **Admission Requirements for 2017/2018**

- OSSD with courses from the College (C), University (U), University/College (M), or Open (O) stream

OR

- Academic and Career Entrance Certificate (ACE)

OR

- Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate (GED)

OR

- Mature Applicant with appropriate preparation

#### **English Language Requirements**

Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to demonstrate proficiency in English by one of the following methods:

- A Grade 12 College Stream or University Stream English credit from an Ontario Secondary School, or equivalent, depending on the program's Admission Requirements

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test with a minimum score of 550 for the paper-based test (PBT), or 79 for the Internet-based test (iBT), with test results within the last two years
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test with an overall score of 6.0 with no score less than 5.5 in any of the four bands, with test results within the last two years
- Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) test with an overall score of 60 with no score less than 50 in any of the four bands, with test results within the last two years
- An English Language Evaluation (ELE) at Fanshawe College with a minimum score of 70% in all sections of the test, with test results within the last two years
- Fanshawe College ESL4/GAP5 students: Minimum grade of 80% in ESL4/GAP5 Level 8, 75% in ESL4/GAP5 Level 9, or 70% in ESL4/GAP5 Level 10

### **Recommended Academic Preparation**

- Any Grade 11 or Grade 12 Geography (C), (U), or (M)
- Grade 11 Visual Arts (M) or (O) OR Grade 12 Visual Arts (M)
- Grade 11 or Grade 12 Construction Engineering Technology (C)
- Grade 11 or Grade 12 Biology (C) or (U)
- Grade 12 Business and Technological Communication (O)
- Computer Skills
- Any Horticulture courses

### **Important - Class 'G' Driver's License**

Students entering the second year of the Horticulture Technician program must be in possession of an Ontario G or G2 driver's license. If a student's driver's license is suspended at any time during the program, the student is responsible for notifying the Program Coordinator immediately. Loss of a driver's license may result in delayed progression or inability to complete the program. Failure to notify the Program Coordinator of the suspended license may result in dismissal from the program.

### **Other Information**

- The Horticulture Technician program operates in two major locations - the London Campus of Fanshawe College and the A.M. (Mac) Cuddy Gardens in Strathroy as well as occasionally at other sites in the London/Middlesex area.

Students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from these locations as required.

- Many practical labs in the program occur outdoors in all weather and require lifting, bending, climbing and other physical work.

### Recommended Personal Preparation

- Industry exposure

### Applicant Selection Criteria

Where the number of eligible applicants exceeds the available spaces in the program, the Applicant Selection Criteria will be:

1. Preference for Permanent Residents of Ontario
2. Receipt of Application by February 1st (After this date, Fanshawe College will consider applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until the program is full)
3. Achievement in the Admission Requirements.

### Course Details

- London Campus
- Program start date: **September 2017**
- Program end date: **August 2019**
- Is this start date flexible? **No**
- Program length (# Weeks): **2 years**
- Number of hours per week: **20-25 hours**
- Schedule of hours: **Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm**

### Cost of Training Course/Program:

Cost of training course/program (Based on 2016/2017 Tuition Fees):

*\*2017/2018 fees available June 2017*

Item	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Tuition/Fees	\$2,754.69	\$2,289.69	\$2,859.69	\$2,289.69
Books	\$301.80	\$0	\$104.90	\$36.40
<i>Expendable Supplies:</i>				
Photocopies, paper, foam board, plant cards, computer disks, etc.	\$250.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

Item	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<i>Uniforms &amp; Minor Equipment:</i>				
CSA Green patch work boots/shoes, program specific work wear, drafting kit, 100' tape measure	\$425.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Shop overalls	\$0	\$50.00	\$0	\$0
Folding pruning saw	\$0	\$0	\$50.00	\$0
<i>Compulsory Field Trips:</i>				
Local field trips	\$75.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local field trips, Landscape Ontario field trip	\$0	\$90.00	\$0	\$0
<i>Other Expenses:</i>				
Facilities fee	\$0	\$0	\$50.00	\$50.00
<i>Optional Expenses:</i>				
Annual semester field trip	\$600.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pesticide license	\$0	\$240.00	\$0	\$0
Chainsaw certification	\$0	\$150.00	\$0	\$0
CNLA Certificate; Chainsaw Certificate	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$560.00
<i>Other:</i>				
OCAS application fee	\$95.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$4,501.49</b>	<b>\$3,019.69</b>	<b>\$3,464.59</b>	<b>\$3,036.09</b>

**Total Cost: \$14,021.86**

**Note:** Tuition fees are billed per term. A \$500.00 non-refundable deposit will be required once per academic year. Making your deposit by the due date will confirm and secure your spot and registration in the program. The balance of fees will be due by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of class for standard start date programs. A \$150.00 late fee will apply should fees not be paid in full by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of class.

**Admission related fees, when applicable:**

English Language Evaluation Test (ELE) - **\$60.00**

- For applicants for whom English is not their first language.

Subject Challenge Exams - **\$75.00**

- Challenge Exams are used for admissions purposes:

- When an applicant has completed the learning, but does not have proof of a grade (i.e., English, Math, Chemistry, Biology, and Physics). The challenge exam shows that the individual has the skill set that meets the minimum grade requirement.
- When an applicant has completed the learning, but does not meet the minimum grade requirement.
- ***Challenge exams cannot be used in lieu of a subject requirement when prior learning has not been completed.***

## Evaluating the School/Follow-up Questions

1. Did you meet the instructor or instructors prior to selecting this school? Please explain.

2. Have you contacted local employers to see if the training is acceptable to them?

Yes             No

3. Does this school have a solid reputation in the community?

Yes. Fanshawe College is one of 24 publicly funded Community Colleges in Ontario and is one of the largest colleges in Ontario.

4. Are the standards and licenses recognized by Governments and Occupational Associations?

Yes.

## Questions to Ask the School

Answers have been already provided for you to the questions listed below.

1. What are the methods of instruction and time spent on each?

- Lectures: **35%**
- Teacher-led: **20%**
- Hands-on practice: **40%**
- Self-paced: **0%**
- Demonstrations: **5%**
- Technology-based instruction: **0%**

2. What certification will you get upon completion of this course?

Two-year Ontario College Diploma.

3. Please explain how your progress will be monitored and reported (method and frequency).

Tests, essays, practical evaluation and projects are assigned weekly.

4. How many hours of home study are expected per week?

Approximately 50 hours.

5. Are detailed course descriptions available to prospective students? If YES, obtain copies and include with Training Research Guide.

Yes.

6. What resources are available if you require additional help while in training?

Fanshawe College offers a wide range of student services to support your success at college:

- English and Math tutoring
- Peer Tutors to assist students having difficulty in a specific course
- Study skills workshops and tutoring offered throughout the year for learners who need to brush up on academic skills
- Personal, academic and career counselling is available to all students
- Specialized support services for mature students

- A full range of services and academic accommodations to support the success of students with disabilities
- Help with job finding strategies, résumé and cover letter assistance, and job interview skills. A job bank lists full-time and part-time opportunities

In addition, the following services are available to all students:

- A full-service Library/Resource Centre, including a Virtual Library for easy 24/7 access and media loans
- Financial Aid Office, including bursary assistance
- Awards and Scholarships

7. What percent of students who are enrolled in the course successfully complete it?

Should be around 80-85%.

8. What academic counseling is available prior to starting school and during the training period?

Staff offers pre-admission planning and academic advice and information for those considering admission to Fanshawe College.

Fanshawe College has a Student Success Advisor in every school and campus who is dedicated to helping students achieve academic success. Student Success Advisors can discuss program progression as well as helping students connect with tutoring, study skills workshops and other academic supports. In addition, due to their close ties with faculty they are notified about students experiencing academic challenges early in the program.

9. How does the school accommodate the needs of adult learners?

The College has considerable experience with adult learners and has specialists available to assist learners with study skills, success strategies, learning and other disabilities. Program coordinators are familiar with the needs of adult learners and will provide assistance to students on a one to one basis.

10. What are the qualifications of the instructor(s)?

Industry experts, diploma, degrees, Master's, CLT (Certified Landscape Technician).

11. Do students have the opportunity to evaluate the instructor and the course?

Yes. Instructional feedback surveys are completed for each course.

12. Does the institution have publicized policies dealing with human rights issues?

Yes.

13. Are you allowed to audit a few classes?

No. The Horticulture Technician program is an oversubscribed program. Seats are not available.

14. Will the school provide references (e.g., signed release forms, past graduates and/or current students)? If not, why?

Yes, upon request.

15. Will there be a practicum or work placement?

Yes. Paid – two 4 month co-op terms (May – August).

16. How does the institution support continuing education/upgrading for graduates in this field of work?

Fanshawe College offers Continuing Education courses for anyone requiring upgrading of skills. Fanshawe also provides custom training to employers on a requested basis.

17. How does the institution make an effort to place its graduates in jobs after completion of the program?

Job Connect and Career Services works with graduates to help them achieve meaningful employment.

18. What percentage of graduates from this training find work in a field related to their training?

All those that want a job.

19. List employers who hire graduates from this course.

See website.

20. How will the credentials you receive be recognized by the industry/employer/sector?

Fanshawe College is well recognized across Ontario and across Canada and has been in business since 1967. As one of the largest Community Colleges in Ontario our graduates are sought after by employers. Fanshawe College is the largest

Cooperative Education College in Canada and as such has strong linkages with employers in the communities it serves. All Fanshawe Programs are evaluated by employers every 3-5 years.