

GREEN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Background

The Division recognizes the value of experiential and applied learning in an agricultural setting that provides students with an opportunity to earn a credential leading to a career in agribusiness.

The Green Certificate Program was developed by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD). Through a partnership established between AAFRD and Alberta Learning, Green Certificate specializations are now available as approved high school courses. Prior to September 1999, students enrolled in the Green Certificate Program accessed credits through work experience and CTS courses related to the specializations. As of September 1999, the seven specializations listed below have been approved, and AAFRD is also looking at the possibility of adding new specializations to this list in the near future.

- 1) Cow-Calf Beef Production
- 2) Dairy Production
- 3) Feedlot Beef Production
- 4) Field Crop Production
- 5) Irrigated Field Crop Production
- 6) Sheep Production
- 7) Swine Production

The required outcomes for each specialization are structured as three non-sequential courses, each with its own code numbers, for a total of sixteen credits. The first course is offered for six credits and the other two courses are offered for five credits each. Students must also take a one-credit safety course entitled CTR1210: Personal Safety (Management) prior to, or concurrent with the first Green Certificate course. St. John Ambulance has an interactive CD available for training purposes for Standard First Aid. Students could do the self-training using the CD and then be tested by a qualified instructor.

Schools can report course marks to Alberta Learning after successful completion of each of the three courses mentioned in the foregoing, as well as the CTR1210 safety course. However, the Green Certificate will not be awarded until all three courses (16 credits) and the CRT1210 (one credit) course are successfully completed.

In the overall Green Certificate Program, learners can progress in each specialization through two levels called the technician level and the supervisor level. If their career interests expand to management roles in agriculture, they can also expand to a third level in the Green Certificate Program called the Farm Manager Program. Most high school students enrolling in the Green Certificate Program do so at the technician level, and upon successful completion of the course requirements are awarded a Technician Credential. In each specialization, to attain the technician component takes approximately 400 hours of on-the-job training, which translates into 16-credits that are reported as three separate 33-level courses. After

completing the technician credential, a high school student wishing to access Level 2 programs could do so by enrolling in Work Experience 15-25-35 courses.

Procedures

1. Because each course in each specialization of the Green Certificate Program is designed to be delivered off-campus, courses must be delivered in accordance with the Off-Campus Education policy, which requires that each workplace be inspected and approved annually by a person designated by the school authority.
2. Students who are interested in exploring career options in agriculture, but who are not ready to commit to enrolling in the Green Certificate Program, should be encouraged to consider enrolling in one or a combination of the following: Career Internship 10; Work Experience 15, 25, or 35; courses from the Agricultural Strand in the Career and Technology Studies program.
3. For the Green Certificate Program, a certified teacher must be assigned the responsibility for ensuring that:
 - a. the work placement provides a safe and caring learning environment;
 - b. the curriculum is being followed;
 - c. student progress is monitored and supervised;
 - d. student performance is appropriately assessed in partnership with the employer and the local AAFRD representative;
 - e. the student is enrolled in the co-requisite course CTR1210: Personal Safety (Management), prior to or concurrent with enrollment in the first Green Certificate course.
4. Students wanting to enroll in the Green Certificate Program should request permission of their school and identify a specialization and work placement. The local AAFRD coordinator can be contacted to provide an in-school introduction for new students entering the program, and also to provide assistance to students in finding an appropriate placement if they are unable to find an employer on their own.
5. At the completion of each Green Certificate course, AAFRD assessors at a provincial assessment centre will formally evaluate the student's knowledge and skills to determine if the general and specific outcomes for the course have been achieved.
6. The tuition fee for taking a Green Certificate Program must be paid to AAFRD when the student enrolls in the program. The student will be required to pay 50% of the registration fee and the school will pay the remaining 50% of the fee. Upon successful completion of the courses required to obtain the technician certificate, and the awarding of 17 high school credits, students will be totally reimbursed by the school for their portion of the tuition costs.

December, 2003
Update: April 2020

References:

Off-Campus Education Policy 1.4.3