Diploma of Agriculture

Course Overview

This section gives you an introduction to what you will be learning in this course, plus course outcomes, career opportunities, and student support.

Study from home during COVID-19 restrictions

Whilst we pride ourselves on our hands-on training, we have had to adjust most of our courses for study from home and remote learning during the COVID-19 restrictions. This means courses will be delivered using a range of methods including online learning, virtual classrooms, workbooks and direct contact with your teacher.

Given the government restrictions that are now in place to reduce the spread of coronavirus in Australia, we expect this new model of study will continue until the government makes changes to these restrictions.

Introduction

Agriculture is 60% of the regional economy of South West Victoria, the need for qualified staff is growing and SWTAFE graduates are in demand from farms to agricultural service providers.

This qualification is suitable for personnel working on farms who currently or aim to manage farm enterprise production. It is also suitable to employees and operators of agribusinesses who provide advice and services to production enterprises on cropping, pasture, livestock or business management. The subject choices allow you to focus on a specific area of expertise you require whether it is animal health and production, business management or agronomic practices around plant nutrition, soils and weed, pest and disease management.

People who complete this qualification will have developed valuable skills to run a property or provide advice to property managers.

You study online and participate in class sessions (1-3 days for each unit) when the unit is on offer. These classes or workshops are held at Sherwood Park, Warrnambool or Glenormiston or Colac depending on the unit. These in class and on-farm workshops allow experts in the industry to reinforce the subject content in a practical environment.

What will I Learn?

You will learn a variety of agricultural skills selecting from subjects such as:

- plant nutrition
- soils and weed
- pest and disease management
- livestock production breeding and monitoring
- whole farm and business planning
- managing staff, business finances and infrastructure maintenance

Course Outcomes and Career Opportunities
Pathways

This course may offer a pathway to further study in agribusiness.

Information Session

Why don’t you come along to our next course info session to find out everything you need to start your learning journey? You can chat with our teachers, tour our facilities, learn more about the course, find out about the application process and get your questions answered by our course experts.

Find the next info session near you

Course Requirements

This section gives you an overview of entry requirements, course units and electives, skills recognition, and assessment criteria.

Entrance requirements & pre-requisites

- You should have VCE or have an equivalent qualification.
- Mature aged candidates with industry experience are also encouraged to apply.
- You must have experience in the agricultural industry and a basic knowledge of agricultural production including experience with managing pasture/crops and managing weeds, pests, and diseases. This may include:
  - working on a farm for more than 2 years or currently farming commercially, or
  - having a Certificate qualification or higher in Agriculture or a similar qualification, or
  - currently or previously providing agricultural advise to farmers on plant nutrition and fertiliser application for grain, pasture and fodder crops, appropriate crop varieties, crop rotations, weed, pest and disease management and effective soil testing as a paid or self-employed position.

Course requirements

To be eligible for this qualification you must successfully complete 10 units.

Units offered

Elective Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Code</th>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Unit Hours</th>
<th>Unit Consumables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHCAGB513</td>
<td>Develop a farm plan</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHCBC503</td>
<td>Manage integrated crop and pasture production</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHCBC508</td>
<td>Apply plant biology to agronomic practices</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHCBC509</td>
<td>Plan and manage long-term weed, pest and disease control in crops</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

This course involves accredited units. You will be required to complete assessment tasks to demonstrate your underpinning knowledge, skills and attributes to meet the course outcomes. A combination of written, oral and practical assessment strategies will be used in either a classroom, online or workplace environment.

Where units require demonstration of skills in a workplace environment, you will have the opportunity to do this either in your own workplace (where appropriate), through a practical placement, or by using one of the Institute’s simulated workshops/classrooms. Detailed information about the types, conduct and dates of assessments will be provided in advance. You will also be provided with information about the opportunity for reassessment and appeal.

After applying

Once you have applied for your chosen course, you will receive a thank you email from South West TAFE with a few steps to help process your enrolment.

Complete a Pre-Training Review
You will receive an email to complete a Pre-Training Review online evaluation. This evaluation helps us tailor your training to suit your needs.

Create or provide a Unique Student Identifier (USI)
A USI is a nationally recognised reference number that provides an online record of your training qualifications gained in Australia. Create your USI
Already have a USI but can’t remember it? Find your USI

Skills recognition
If you have experience or prior qualifications, you may be eligible to apply for recognition of prior learning and gain credits. You will be asked to provide any relevant Statement of Attainment to support identified credits.

Fees

This section gives you an overview of course fees, subsidies, and how they can be paid.

Course Fees
Here’s an outline of fees and costs associated with your course.

Your fees each year can be made up of 3 different elements. Everyone has different circumstances that can affect what you pay and how much you pay:

1. Tuition fees - charged as an hourly rate that varies from course to course. A large portion of the tuition is subsidised by the Victorian Government for eligible students.
2. Resource and/or materials costs - covers the cost of materials and other incidentals. This fee will vary according to the course being undertaken.
3. Booklist items - such as textbooks, equipment and stationery recommended for your course

Tuition fees
There are 4 different rates of tuition fees. Only one will apply to you (depending on your eligibility and circumstances).

1. Government Subsidised Fee - you could be eligible for a government-subsidised rate under the Skills First funding depending on your age, educational history, and citizenship or residency status. If you are eligible, the government will contribute to the cost of your training. Check your eligibility
2. Government Subsidised Concession Fee - If you are eligible for a Skills First government-subsidised place and hold a current healthcare or pension card, that you can provide at enrolment. You may be eligible for the concession rate. Find out more about concession rates
3. Free TAFE - Students who are eligible for Victorian government-subsidised training will not pay course tuition fees for the duration of their enrolment in this course, however, there may be some consumable/material fees for the course (find out more below). Any resource or material costs, or booklist items for this course are listed in the table below.
4. Full fee - If you are not eligible for a Skills First government-subsidised place, exemption, concession or are enrolling in a course that isn't government-subsidised, you may be required to pay the full fee rate.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FEES AND ELIGIBILITY
The fees listed below are indicative only and may be subject to change without notice and given individual circumstances. Your actual fees will be calculated based on your individual circumstances at the time of enrolment. Funding made available to eligible individuals by State and Commonwealth Governments. If funding is utilised, this may affect future opportunities to access additional funding in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course fees by student type</th>
<th>Indicative Course Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government subsidised rate (if eligible)</td>
<td>$12,155.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full fee rate (if not eligible for govt subsidy)</td>
<td>$19,300.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional course fees</th>
<th>Indicative Course Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course consumable/materials (approximate)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Resource and/or materials costs
Some courses require specific resources or materials necessary for your study eg: tools of the trade, excursions, etc. Final costs will be determined and discussed with you prior to enrolment.

How do I pay my fees?
Once we have processed your enrolment form, you will receive an email with your invoice.

You have three options when organising your payment:
1. **Upfront payment** - can be made over the phone with EFTPOS.

2. **Payment plan** - can be directly debited from your bank account, debited from your Centrelink payments or via a [VET Student Loan](#) (for diploma or advanced diploma courses only).

3. **Paid by employer, school or job network agency** - if your fees are being paid by your employer, school or job network agency, you will need to complete an Authority to Invoice form.

Payments will need to be arranged within five(5) business days of receiving the email containing your invoice.

We also offer a range of [scholarships](#) each year which you may be eligible to apply for to assist with course fees.

### Next Steps

*Ready to take the next step? Here you can make an enquiry, attend an information session or begin the application process.*

### Careers and Course Advice

Not sure which course is right for you? South West TAFE will help you find your way.

Our Careers Coaches at the [Skills and Jobs Centre](#) is here to support you. Whether you’re exploring career options, transitioning from school to the workforce or looking to study after school we’re here to help you. Call, email or drop in.

Call 5564 8515 or email skillsandjobscentre@swtafe.edu.au

### How to apply

There are **five simple steps to apply for a course** with us.

1. **Apply** - [complete a short online application form](#). Once this form is submitted we’ll send you a thank you email.
2. **Get ready** - your thank-you email will contain links to a pre-training review, to a unique student identifier and to government-subsidised training eligibility.
3. **Chat with your teacher** - your teacher or course specialist will contact you about your Pre-Training Review outcomes and additional course information.
4. **Enrol** - after chatting with your teacher, you will receive an email with your enrolment form and a link to verify your identity.
5. **Sign** - once you’ve completed your enrolment, you will receive a declaration form to review and sign.

If need any assistance with applying, contact our [Customer Service team](#) on 1300 648 911 or [visit your nearest campus](#).

### Student Support

As a SWTAFE student, you can access a variety of support services that will enhance your study experience and help you complete your studies successfully. For more information about any of these services, [visit our student page](#).