



Olds College Facts (2011)

**Olds College leads real-life, hands-on education in Canada.
We help you explore your passion!**



Introduction

Since first opening its doors in 1913, Olds College has provided quality education and training to launch successful careers for many generations of learners. Beginning as the Olds College School of Agriculture, it has evolved into an institution that still leads in agricultural education while offering a much wider curriculum. In 1963 the name was changed to Olds Agricultural and Vocational College to reflect course offerings which were expanding beyond agriculture. In 1970 the name was simplified to Olds College. In addition, provincial administration of the college was moved from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Advanced Education at that time. In 1978, Olds College became an autonomous Board Governed Institution.

Olds College's vision is to be the premier Canadian integrated learning and applied research community specializing in agriculture, horticulture, land and environmental management.

The College works closely with community, business and industry to continually refine its curriculum in response to industry trends, so that students receive skills that are in demand in the current workforce. In this way, Olds College graduates are highly employable and begin their careers at the top of the list.

At Olds College we are dedicated to the creation of centres of excellence and the furthering of applied research, and places an unwavering emphasis on sustainability and good regional stewardship as outlined in its business plan. It works in conjunction with other institutions such as Red Deer College, and more specifically, the Chinook's Edge School Division as part of the Community Learning Campus (CLC).



Curriculum Changes

Since its beginning as an agricultural and home economics school, Olds College expanded and became more career-focused over the years. For example, cooking and sewing classes evolved into a Fashion program, and typing and shorthand courses became a modern, computerized Office Administration program.

Industry still requires a basic Agricultural Production program, but ours now has four majors including Precision Farming courses working with computers and satellite technology. Also, we offer separate programs for Ag Mechanics, Ag Business and Seed and Grain Technology. Early horticultural courses evolved into a broad range of horticultural programs and diplomas and the College's first degree program.

The College introduced several major changes during the 1960s, due to declining enrolments. Programs and courses in animal health, horticulture and floriculture, land and water conservation and business first appeared during this period. Today, a wide variety of programs in agriculture, horticulture, land, applied business and the environment prepare students for successful career.

As Canadian industry has grown, so to has Olds College. For almost a century, our emphasis on hands-on training, applied research, and high-tech learning has resulted in graduates who are in-demand and have the skills and the tools they need to succeed.

Olds College Today



Students come from Alberta, Canada, and around the world to experience the College's unique brand of quality education.

As we look to the future, and as Canada's population continues to grow and become more urbanized, Olds College and its programs will continue to advance and adapt to meet the changing needs of industry and entrepreneurs. Our international reputation is growing and we have spearheaded projects in more than 30 countries.

Strategic Objectives

Encompassed in the Comprehensive Institutional (Business) Plan are four goals and their accompanying strategies and expected outcomes. These goals reflect the College's ambitious plans from 2010 to 2014:

1. Create academic centres of excellence
2. Implement regional programming and increase credit continuing education offerings
3. Increase applied research activity
4. Create environmental, social and economic sustainability

Olds College Facts (2011)

- Olds College has two campuses, one in Olds and one in Calgary.
- The Olds College campus covers over 2,000 acres (8.1 km²) and includes a working farm and public botanic gardens.
- The current Calgary campus opened in 2006 and is located on the edge of the Calgary Stampede grounds. A permanent Calgary campus shall replace the interim campus in 2013 and will be located in downtown Calgary in collaboration with Bow Valley College, University of Lethbridge, and Athabasca University.
- The College is authorized by the Government of Alberta to grant Certificates, Diplomas, Bachelor of Applied Science Degrees and Apprenticeship designations.
- The College offers:
 - 17 Certificates (one year)
 - 11 Diplomas (two years)
 - 4 on-line programs (one and two years)
 - 4 Bachelor of Applied Science degrees
 - 7 Apprenticeship programs
 - 4 Pre-Employment Programs
- In 2009/2010, Olds College employed approximately 322 full-time equivalent individuals.
- 1350 fulltime students (FLE), over 6000 Continuing Education students annually.
- Alumni: 23,000

- The student population is comprised of approximately 59% female and 41% male.
 - 72% from Alberta
 - 9% from BC
 - 11% from Saskatchewan
 - 7% Other
 - 1% International – The College attracts international students from over 14 different countries each year.
- Affiliations include Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA), Alberta Association of Colleges & Technical Institutes (AACTI)
- Olds College provides applied research and development services to the industry through the Centre for Innovation. They utilize a team of dedicated staff and unique research facilities, including the Compost Technology Center, Biofuel Technology Center, Bio-industry Resource Center as well as analytical labs and research greenhouses.
- Official athletics team is Olds College Broncos. www.gobroncos.ca
- Broncos are members of both Alberta College Athletics League (ACAL) and Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference (ACAC) depending on the sport. Their goal is to be a full ACAC member within 2 years.
- Broncos teams (11 in total) consist of Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, Men's Futsal, Women's Futsal, Men's Curling and Women's Curling. Olds College also competes intercollegiately in Rodeo.

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