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**NEW**

# AGRONOMY CERTIFICATE

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# **Olds College Agronomy Certificate Program**

## **Statement of Purpose:**

The Olds College Agronomy Certificate Program (OCAC) prepares graduates to support the agri-service industry by providing practical training in crop production systems, nutrition and protection.

“Train your employees as they work”

This entry level program is designed to answer industry’s call for trained crop scouts who possess basic agronomic skills. Interactive online discussion will be emphasized to meet the individual learner’s needs and an on-campus field school will cap the program of study. The targeted student is the part-time learner who requires a blended learning opportunity while working within the crop inputs industry. They may have had previous post secondary training but lack specific knowledge in agriculture or they may have agricultural experience in another country but require specific training in Western Canadian farming practices. Several courses are being delivered to encompass the learning outcomes listed below.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Explain production systems for selected agricultural crops.
2. Describe crop nutrition and fertility practices.
3. Document pest populations.
4. Explain integrated pest management.
5. Collect field data.
6. Use selected technologies.
7. Communicate clearly and concisely with agricultural stakeholders.

## Course Listing & Delivery Schedule for 2010:

### **AGRN 100D Crop Production Systems 3 credits**

An overview of basic botany and the production cycle for agricultural crops in Western Canada. Students will learn the steps of land preparation, seeding, harvesting, and storage of grains, oilseeds, pulses, and hay crops. Their identity, uses and markets will also be covered.

**Delivery Method:** Online

**Delivery Schedule:** January 11 – March 7, 2010                      Registration deadline: Dec 18/09  
August 30 – October 24, 2010                      Registration deadline: Aug 13/10

### **AGRN 105D Introductory Soils and Crop Nutrition 3 credits**

This introductory course will provide learners an overview of basic soil formation, soil quality, crop nutrition, and fertilizer practices in western Canada.

**Delivery Method:** Online

**Delivery Schedule:** March 8 – May 2, 2010                      Registration deadline: Feb 19/10  
October 25 – December 19, 2010                      Registration deadline: Oct 8/10

### **AGRN 110D Weed Fundamentals 3 credits**

An introduction to the identification of common prairie weeds. Strategies for integrated weed management will also be described.

**Delivery Method:** Online

**Delivery Schedule:** March 8 – May 2, 2010                      Registration deadline: Feb 19/10  
October 25 – December 19, 2010                      Registration deadline: Oct 8/10

### **AGRN 115D Insect and Disease Management 3 credits**

This course will be an introduction to the major insect and disease species affecting field crops in the Canadian prairies. Management practices for prevention and outbreaks will be discussed.

**Delivery Method:** Online

**Delivery Schedule:** January 11 – March 7, 2010                      Registration deadline: Dec 18/09  
August 30 – October 24, 2010                      Registration deadline: Aug 13/10

### **AGRN 120 Data Management for Field Scouting 3 credits**

This course will be an introduction to the technologies used in data collection for field scouting. This will include GPS, GIS, digital photography and data management systems.

**Delivery Method:** Face-to-face

**Delivery Schedule:** January 4 - 8, 2010                      Registration deadline: Dec 18/09  
August 23 – 27, 2010                      Registration deadline: Aug 13/10

### **AGRN 125 Field School 3 credits**

This field school will be the capstone course of the Agronomy Certificate. In this course the student will demonstrate practical, hands-on application of the competencies gained in the prerequisite courses.

**Prerequisites:** AGRN 100D, AGRN 105D, AGRN 110D, AGRN 115D & AGRN 120

**Delivery Method:** Face-to-face

**Delivery Schedule:** July 5 – 9, 2010                      Registration deadline: Jun 25/10  
July 2011 (5 days)                      Registration deadline: TBD

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Course fee: \$599 per course

Late fee: \$75 per course (for registering after deadline)

Thank you for inquiring about Olds College's New Agronomy Certificate Program. Please find attached some detailed information about the program and its courses.

The online courses will offer you, or your employees, the opportunity to continue to work while you train. These courses are each 8 weeks in length and will be delivered in a virtual classroom through the **Blackboard** learning system. An introduction to Blackboard is available at <http://blackboard.oldscollege.ca>. Please feel free to visit this website at any time to:

- find login instructions (you will need to be a registered student to log in)
- determine if your computer has the required specifications
- familiarize yourself with the system through the Boot Camp (you do NOT need to be a registered student to use Boot Camp)
- answer other frequently asked questions

The daily time requirement for each online course is dependant on the individual learner. Some will find it more challenging than others depending upon previously related training and experience and also upon your comfort level in operating a computer. It is likely that you will need to spend 6-12 hours a week on each course.

The Face-to-face courses will be delivered at the Olds Campus over a 5-day period and will offer you the opportunity to:

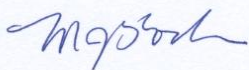
- meet your instructors and create a network with other students in the program
- utilize Olds College's farm, facilities, equipment and software
- apply the competencies you've gained in the online courses

It is recommended that you have an Alberta High School Diploma or equivalent certification for entry into the program. A Prior Learning Assessment can be completed for those who do not hold an Alberta High School Diploma.

Each of the six courses in the Agronomy Certificate is worth 3 credits for a total of 18 credits. If you decide to continue your education beyond this certificate, these credits have the potential to transfer to other College programs (final decision on transferability to be determined by the respective Program Coordinators).

Again, thank you for your interest in Olds College as a resource in your career building activities. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Regards,



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