

Program Research & Recommendation

New Program Research Form

New Program Title: Utility Vegetation Management

Initiator: Annie Rafferty, Emiliano Jimenez-Cornejo, Don Robinson and Tom Williams

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Advisory Team Members: Industry advisors: Larry Abernathy, Les Day, Jonathan Tank, and Matt Krause; and Annie Rafferty, Emiliano Jimenez-Cornejo, Don Robinson, Tom Williams

Degree/Certificate: Certificate of Achievement and A.S. Degree and Enhanced Noncredit

Program Description: (include possible program outcomes and an outline of draft curriculum)

The Utility Vegetation Management program builds on established utility arborist and pre-inspection training to prepare students for entry-level employment and multiple career pathways within the utility vegetation management industry. Students develop foundational knowledge in utility vegetation management, safety, tree biology and identification, and electrical hazard awareness; specialized skills in utility vegetation inspection and line-clearance arboriculture; and practical skills in commercial driving and heavy equipment operations. The program combines classroom instruction with seventy percent hands-on training to prepare graduates for employment and continued advancement within the industry.

Certificate of Achievement in Utility Vegetation Management

Program Outcomes

The Utility Vegetation Management Certificate of Achievement provides students with industry-aligned technical training. Students develop foundational knowledge and hands-on competencies in utility arboriculture, vegetation inspection, line clearance operations and job safety.

Upon completion, students are prepared for employment, career advancement, credit for prior learning, economic mobility, and continue their education toward the Associate of Science Degree in Utility Vegetation Management.

Program Requirements

PROPOSED PROGRAM COURSES

Number	Title	Units
UVM 80	Utility Arborist Fundamentals	6
UVM 82	Utility Arborist Pre Inspector Level One	3
UVM 84	Utility Line Clearance Arborist	7
Total:		16

A.S. Degree in Utility Vegetation Management

Program Outcomes

The Associate of Science Degree builds upon the Certificate of Achievement by expanding students' technical, scientific, operational, and leadership competencies within utility vegetation management.

Students advance their knowledge of arboriculture, tree biology, utility tree risk assessment, pruning aloft, physical readiness and injury prevention, commercial driving, heavy equipment operations, and frontline supervision. Applied industry experience further prepares graduates for career advancement and increased responsibility within utility vegetation management and related industries.

PROPOSED PROGRAM COURSES

Number	Title	Units
UVM 80	Utility Arborist Fundamentals	5
UVM 82	Utility Arborist Pre Inspector Level One	2
UVM 84	Utility Line Clearance Arborist	7
UVM 86	Commercial Drivers License	2
UVM 88	Utility Arborist Specialized Equipment Operations	4
UVM 89	Industrial Athlete	1
EH 80	Arboriculture	3
EH 82	Vegetation Tech – QAL AL	3
UVM 90	Wildfire Prevention	3
UVM 99	Work Experience	1
AB 54	Elements in Supervision – Crew Leader	3
Total:		32

Potential need for/interest in program: (For CTE Programs: include labor market data, survey data, industry communications, etc.) See attached Labor Market Report and Wage Schedule from the IBEW 1245 Utility Union and minutes from an industry advisory committee meeting. Attachments: Appendix A: IBEW 1245 2022-2027 Wage Schedule and Appendix B. IBEW 1245 2022-2027 Utility Vegetation Management Contractor Agreements

Financial concerns: (general fund requirements, equipment needs, facility/space requirements, etc.) This program would need an annual budget of \$40,000 to cover the cost of consumables and small tools and supplies. For equipment has been purchased with Federal EDA, Good Jobs Challenge, Resilient Careers in Forestry, Federal CDBG-Disaster Recovery, CCCCC IDRC, CCCCC Fire and Forestry Grant, Pacific Gas and Electric Scholarships. This program will need designated lecture and lab space assigned to it.

Faculty needs: (number of full-time/number of part-time, qualifications, ability to recruit)

For the core courses of this program, we will need 2 full-time Faculty members and potentially the support of Instructional aides during lab settings. The faculty member would need to be qualified and approved trainers for this program.

Advisory Team Recommendation: _____ Recommend
 _____ Recommend w/Reservation
 _____ Not Recommended

Comments: