

Ontario Agricultural College

Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management (DTM) at the University of Guelph is the only program of its kind in Ontario and is one of only two such programs nationally. Its focused curriculum provides students with the skills to succeed in this competitive industry. The program utilizes the collaborative resources of the University of Guelph faculty and staff, industry professionals and the grounds, workshop, and laboratory facilities of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. The DTM program is offered at the Guelph campus and will prepare you for a variety of career opportunities including golf course management, lawn care, sports field management, parks management, sod production and related supply and service businesses.

WHY CO-OP?

As a co-op student, you will gain firsthand work experience, build professional networks, and develop interpersonal skills that are essential for pursuing a career in turfgrass management. You will also get paid while earning your diploma. Guelph's co-op program is unique due to the exceptional level of support provided, including a co-op preparatory course, a personal connection with Co-op Coordinators to assist you during the employment process, and access to senior student mentors.

COURSE SEQUENCING

In the DTM co-op program, you will participate in one co-op work term in addition to four academic semesters throughout your two years at the University of Guelph.

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SUMMER
ONE	Academic	Academic	Work
TWO	Academic	Academic	



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SAMPLE JOBS

Below are some examples of possible Turfgrass Management co-op positions.

Golf Course Intern

The student will be responsible for operating walk-behind mowers to cut tees, approaches and greens; performing daily course set-up, using line trimmers, blowers; maintaining bunkers; operating various pieces of ride-on equipment; assisting in irrigation or drainage repair, and other course improvement projects. Students will gain exposure to fertilizer and pesticide application planning and equipment, be closely involved with the planning and execution of an integrated pest management (IPM) program as well as working closely with management to ensure daily and weekly department goals are met.

Municipal Parks Intern

Students will join the seasonal parks and trail maintenance team to complete a variety of tasks which sustain the beauty, cleanliness and usability of functional public greenspaces for community stakeholders. Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to mowing, line trimming, fertilizing, over-seeding, aerating, line painting, re-grading ball diamonds, tree planting, maintaining public gardens, maintaining public trail systems, maintaining lawn bowling greens, applying pest control products, maintaining inventory of parks and public greenspace infrastructure, and other tasks as assigned.

SAMPLE EMPLOYERS*

ONTARIO	CANADA	INTERNATIONAL
BMO Field City of Guelph St. George's Golf Club TPC Toronto	Cabot Links, NS Jasper Park Lodge Golf Club, AB Royal Montreal Golf Club, QC Capilano Golf Club, BC	St Andrews, Scotland Augusta National Golf Club, USA TPC Boston, USA Oakmont Country Club, USA

*Sample co-op employer list only. Employers will vary depending on recruitment needs. During a job search, students are encouraged to be actively engaged and are also supported in establishing and maintaining their own personal contacts.

SALARY INFORMATION

Students receive compensation from their employer for co-op work terms. The rate of pay will vary depending on a number of factors including the industry, the student's program of study and the student's previous work experiences. For your reference, a **Co-operative Education Salary Guide** is available on our website, which provides hourly rates (averages and ranges) for associate diploma programs.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED

Turfgrass Management co-op students will be exposed to a variety of experiences and learning opportunities throughout their co-op work terms. Common areas of experience and skill building may include, but are not limited to:

- Exposure to various tools and equipment for maintaining turfgrass systems
- Maintenance of property infrastructure such as irrigation and drainage systems
- Budget management and short/long-range planning
- Pest identification and integrated pest management (IPM) programming
- Problem solving and decision making in the field
- Creating and managing an agronomic plan to achieve a variety of playing conditions
- Volunteering and preparations for professional or international competition
- Precision moisture management and executing effective and ethical water management plans
- Environmental management and sustainable initiatives
- Precision application of fertilizers and pest control products
- Personal organization, data collection and record keeping
- Other skills and experiences as defined and outlined in the student's co-op learning goals