

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Instructors at community colleges and technical schools are, first and foremost, teachers. Some may teach a single course in arboriculture, and others may manage full programs, many of which result in a 2-year college degree. Instructors must develop curricula and lesson plans, teach classes, grade papers and tests, manage administrative duties, and recruit students.

## TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Instructors at community colleges and technical schools come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Most have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, but anything up to Ph.D. is likely. Most instructors have worked in at least one facet of the arboriculture profession before teaching, and extensive practical experience is the norm. Some common backgrounds include commercial tree company owners or managers, municipal arborists, and university extension agents.



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Most community college and technical school instructors have at least one college degree and some have advanced degrees. Most are ISA Certified Arborists.

## EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- Tree identification
- Hazard tree recognition and assessment skills
- Protection of trees on construction sites
- Computer skills using spreadsheets, word processing, and data bases
- Teaching proficiency
- Pruning principals and techniques
- Public communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- ANSI A300 Standards
- Transplanting of trees
- Diagnostic skills

## EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ANSI A300 Standards
- Best Management Practices series
- *Arboriculture* by Harris, et al
- *ISA: A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas*
- *ISA: Trees and Development*
- *ISA: Arboriculture and the Law*
- *ISA/ASCA: Guide to Report Writing*
- *ISA Arborists' Certification Study Guide*
- *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs*
- *Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs*
- *Journal of Arboriculture*

## CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

Certified arborist and pesticide applicator license are helpful, but rarely required.

## TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Community college and technical school instructors may remain in the position for the remainder of their careers, or may shift to another sector of the arboriculture profession. Some may become involved as department chairs or in college administration. Many also do consulting on the side and devote time to speaking at seminars.