

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. Subjects taught may include basic forestry (such as forest ecology and tree identification) and Geographic Information System (GIS).

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 any education level 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.



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EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Computer skills (word processing, database, spreadsheets)
- ✓ Diagnostic skills
- ✓ Hazard tree recognition and assessment skills
- ✓ Protection of trees on construction sites
- ✓ Pruning principals and techniques
- ✓ Public communication skills
- ✓ Strong organizational skills
- ✓ Teaching proficiency
- ✓ Transplanting of trees
- ✓ Tree identification

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *A Consultant Guide to Writing Effective Reports* (ASCA)
- ✓ *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* (ISA journal)
- ✓ *Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (Harris et al.)
- ✓ *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* (Sinclair and Lyon)
- ✓ *Introduction to Arboriculture Training Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ *Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy, and Community Development* (APA)
- ✓ *Up By Roots: Healthy Soils and Trees in the Built Environment* (Urban)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

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

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist[®] credential 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.