



AHC50122 Diploma of Agriculture Student Guide – 2024



Introduction to AHC50122 Diploma in Agriculture

A better manager is a more efficient manager. Increasing your planning and management abilities will increase your profits. Let Tocal College set you on the right path.

Welcome to the Tocal College AHC50122 Diploma in Agriculture.

Tocal College is offering the AHC50122 Diploma in Agriculture qualification through a fully online self-directed learning method, which can be studied in your own home or anywhere that suits your learning style.

All learning content and assessment is provided through our Learner Management System.

You will have two (2) years to complete the qualification. There is no minimum timeframe for completion. To complete the course in two (2) years, you will be required to do 10 to 15 hours of study per week, and complete one (1) unit every eight (8) weeks. To complete the course in one (1) year, you will be required to do 20 to 30 hours of study per week and completed one (1) unit every five (5) weeks.

Upon successful completion of your course/qualification you will receive an official transcript in the mail and an invitation to attend a Tocal College graduation ceremony, where you will be presented with your Tocal College testamur.

All graduates are invited to the annual formal graduation service. This is held each March/April at the Paterson and Yanco NSW campuses. To qualify, you must complete the Diploma during the calendar year prior.

Key contacts

Charlie Bell

Program Coordinator

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All enquiries to be directed to diploma.online@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Qualification outcomes

The AHC50122 Diploma of Agriculture is ideal for farm owners, managers, agronomists, and agricultural service providers. This course aims to develop existing knowledge and skills in planning and management, work health and safety, environment and sustainability, as well as livestock and crop production.

What the qualification involves

To achieve this qualification, competency must be demonstrated in:

- 10 units of competency:
 - 2 core units plus
 - 8 elective units.

Elective units must ensure the integrity of the qualification's Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) alignment and contribute to a valid, industry-supported vocational outcome. The electives can be chosen to provide a general qualification or a qualification with a specialisation.

Units are classified as Group A or Group B. To earn the qualification, you need to complete:

- 2 units from group A
- 4 units not already selected from groups A or B
- the remaining 2 units must be selected from units listed in groups A or B, or any currently endorsed Training Package or accredited course.

Core and foundation units

Total College suggests 3 foundation units and the 2 core units be completed in the order below before selecting electives.

- AHCAGB518 Develop climate risk management strategies (Group A - Foundation)
- AHCWHS503 Manage work health and safety processes (Group A - Core)
- AHCAGB513 Develop a farm plan (Group A – Foundation)
- AHCSOL505 Monitor and manage soils for production (Group A - Foundation) *The unit includes soil testing. The cost of the testing is not included in the course fees.*
- AHCWRK520 Develop workplace policy and procedures for environment and sustainability (Group A – Core)

Elective units

Livestock

- AHCLSK504 Develop livestock health and welfare strategies (Group A)
- AHCLSK510 Develop production plans for livestock (Group A)
- *AHCLSK509 Develop and implement a breeding strategy (Group A)

***Note:** you must have access to a breeding unit (40 plus) of beef cows or its equivalent in other livestock to undertake this unit.

Crops and pastures

- AHCBAC512 Develop production plans for crops or pastures (Group A)
- *AHCBAC513 Apply plant biology to agronomic practices (Group A)

***Note:** completion of this unit involves setting up and monitoring two small plant experiments.

Business

- AHCBUS511 Manage enterprise staff requirements (Group A) *Note: you need to be a workplace supervisor to complete this unit.*
- AHCBUS513 Market products and services (Group A)
- AHCBUS516 Develop and review a business plan (Group A)
- AHCBUS517 Monitor and review business performance (Group A)
- AHCBUS518 Prepare and monitor budgets and financial reports (Group A)
- AHCAGB512 Plan and manage infrastructure (Group B)
- MSS015040 Conduct a sustainability energy audit (Group B)

Chemicals

- **AHCCHM404 Develop procedures to minimise risk in the use of chemicals (Imported)
- **AHCCHM405 Plan and implement a chemical use program (Imported)

****Note:** It is a Total requirement for students to hold the units AHCCHM307 Prepare and apply chemicals to control, pest, weeds and diseases and AHCCHM304 Transport and store chemicals.

All students are expected to make adequate progress through the units in their qualification at a steady pace towards completion. Your coordinator will outline the time frames for your study program.

Tocal College entry requirements:

Tocal College prefers that students have either attained a Certificate III in Agriculture or have an equivalent of two (2) years industry experience.

Students must have:

- access to a commercial farm enterprise to complete assessment tasks
- Australian citizenship, permanent residency, or New Zealand citizenship
- adequate language, literacy, and numeracy skills to complete the course
- basic to intermediate computer skills, and reliable internet speed.

How is training and assessment delivered?

Your skills and understanding will be assessed for each unit through a variety of tasks. All assessments are marked within five (5) working days, following the day you submit your work. You have four (4) attempts for each task to achieve a competency result, and your assessor will provide detailed feedback following each submission.

Assessment

Your assessment will vary for each unit but will include tasks to gain an assessment of your knowledge and your practical skills at an industry level standard. Assessment for each unit will usually include written tasks such as a quiz, research, report or project, and practical tasks such as an observation checklist, a video, or photographs.

Some tasks may need to be assessed in the workplace, or simulated environment.

Online Learning

Online learning involves you completing theoretical components of various units of competency through watching slide presentations, videos, and reading written learning resources within Tocal College's online learner management system, Canvas. You will receive a login to Canvas after your enrolment is complete. Assessment for the online components of your certificate includes multiple choice quizzes, short answers, and photo/video/file assignment uploads to support evidence of students performing tasks.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL is the process for formally assessing and recognising skills, knowledge, and experience. Students may be eligible for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in specific units of competency depending on their previous experience. RPL assessment requires you to demonstrate and present evidence of your skills and knowledge.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) – <https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/courses/recognition-of-prior-learning>

Fees

The current fee schedules for industry qualifications are available on the Tocal College website: https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1142475/Industry-qualification-fee-schedule.pdf

Some qualifications are subsidised for NSW students under Smart and Skilled through Training Services NSW. Smart and Skilled is an NSW Government program that helps people get qualifications in in-demand skills and industries.

Smart and Skilled gives eligible students an entitlement to government-subsidised training in selected qualifications. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/students-and-job-seekers/low-cost-and-free-training-options/smart-and-skilled-training>

Tocal College can provide a quote for students in the Smart and Skilled portal, prior to enrolment.

Student policies and procedures

<https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/students/future-students/policies>