Tocal
COLLEGE
RTO 91166

AHC51120 Diploma in Conservation and Ecosystem Management

Student Guide – 2024

NSW
GOVERNMENT

Introduction to AHC51120 Diploma in Conservation and Ecosystem Management

Implementing better conservation and ecosystem management strategies helps manage the natural environment and sustain it for future generations. Let Tocal College set you on the right path to develop skills and knowledge according to Industry best practice.

Welcome to the Tocal College AHC51120 Diploma in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

Tocal College is offering the Diploma in Conservation and Ecosystem Management (CEM) 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 are provided through our learner management system, Canvas.

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 complete one (1) unit every five (5) weeks.

Upon successful completion of your course/qualification, you will receive an official transcript in the mail. 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

Danielle Fordham

Program Coordinator

All enquiries are to be directed to cem@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Qualification Outcomes

The AHC51120 Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management is ideal for people working in technical or operational management positions in the land management sector. You will develop knowledge and skills in:

- designing plans for managing and restoring sites
- developing and demonstrating natural resource management skills for sustainable land use
- managing weeds and pests in the landscape
- the legal and policy framework for environmental and natural resource management

What does the qualification involve?

You must complete ten (10) units to gain the Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

There are no core units, but you do need to select:

- A minimum of four (4) units from Group A.
- A minimum of four (4) units from Groups A or B.
- A maximum of two (2) units may be selected from the elective list of a Certificate IV or above of this or any other endorsed Training Package or Accredited Course. Selected units must be relevant to job outcomes in Conservation and Ecosystem Management and must be chosen to ensure the integrity of the qualification outcome at AQF level 5.

Tocal College recommends you select the program below with three (3) foundation units (comprising four (4) units of competency) completed before selecting four (4) electives. It is then recommended that students complete the two (2) concluding units.

Foundation Units

1. Describe a landscape

- AHCECR308 Conduct a site inspection for ecological restoration (Imported unit)
- AHCWRK513 Write and present reports (Imported unit)

2. Collect and classify plants

- AHCPCM510 Collect and classify plants (Group A)

3. Define the pest problem

- AHCPMG413 Define the pest problem (Group A)

Elective Units (select four)

(A maximum of two (2) relevant units may be selected from the elective list of a Certificate IV or above of this or any other endorsed Training Package or Accredited Course).

4. Develop a pest management plan

- AHCPMG412 Develop a pest management plan (Group B)

5. Plan prescribed burning*

- AHCFIR503 Plan and evaluate burning for fuel, ecological and cultural resource management (Group A)

  To enrol in this course you must have access to a fire within your work role

6. Develop environmental policy

- AHCWRK520 Develop workplace policy and procedures for environment and sustainability (Group A)

7. Design a restoration project

- AHCECR503 Design an ecological restoration project (Group A)

8. Plan river restoration works

- AHCECR505 Plan river restoration works (Group A)

9. Develop sustainable land use strategies*

- AHCECR506 Develop and implement sustainable land use strategies (Group A)

  To complete this unit, you must have access to land that is used for agricultural purposes.

Concluding Units

10. Develop a management plan for an area of land

- AHCLPW506 Develop a management plan for a designated area (Group A)

11. Monitoring biological indicators

- AHCECR502 Conduct biological surveys (Group A).

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 CEM or have a minimum of two (2) years of sufficient industry experience.

Students must have:

- access to land suitable with native vegetation to develop natural area restoration projects (approx. 10 acres or greater)

- access to land that is used for agricultural purposes if choosing AHCECR506 Develop and implement sustainable land use strategies, as an elective

- Australian citizenship, permanent residency, or New Zealand citizenship

- adequate language, literacy, and numeracy skills to complete the course

- basic to intermediate computing skills, and reliable internet speed

- basic tools and PPE for self-directed fieldwork

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.

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 Diploma will include multiple choice quizzes, short answers, and photo/video/file assignment uploads to support evidence of students performing tasks.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the process of formally assessing and recognising skills, knowledge, and experience. RPL enables formal credit to be granted for the knowledge, skills and abilities people have gained through life or work experience. Students may be eligible for RPL in specific units of competency depending on their previous experience. Some students may achieve their qualifications using a combination of all modes (online and/or RPL).

RPL assessment requires you to demonstrate and present evidence of your skills and knowledge. The process is completed through the gathering of evidence and an interview or by review of documentation provided to the College by the student.

Contact your course coordinator to enquire about RPL.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Portal: 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/courses/industry-qualifications/ahc51120-diploma-of-CEM

Some qualifications are subsidised for NSW students under Smart and Skilled through Training Services NSW. Smart and Skilled is a 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. Visit the NSW Education website for information: 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, before enrolment.

Student Policies and Procedures

Information on policies and procedures for industry qualifications is available on the Tocal College website: https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/students/future-students/policies