

**AHC31824**

**Certificate III in Beekeeping**

# 2026 Course guide



# Tocal COLLEGE

YOUR FUTURE IN  
AGRICULTURE



**Tocal College (RTO 91166)** is a leading Australian provider of specialised training to rural industries. It consists of the CB Alexander Campus at Paterson, the Yanco Campus in the Riverina, and branches at Gosford and Tamworth.



# AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping

## Course Guide – 2026



# Introduction to AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping

Welcome to the Tocal College AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping.

Tocal College is offering the AHC31824 qualification to existing beekeepers through a blended delivery model of online and face-to-face training. Training delivery modification may occur to suit the needs of individuals, including local and flexible options to work around seasonal beekeeping operations.

The AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping qualification was released in April 2024, replacing the superseded qualification AHC31818. Eligible participants have an opportunity to complete the units of competency over 12 months to 2 years. The full AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping requires completion of 18 Units of Competency.

The duration of study to complete this qualification will depend on your level of beekeeping experience, availability to attend face-to-face training, the time it takes to complete the online courses and associated assignments, and the amount of previous accredited beekeeping you have completed.

Upon completion of your qualification, you will receive an official transcript in the mail and an invitation to attend a Tocal College graduation ceremony and the awarding of your certificate by the College Principal.

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

## Key contacts

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## Qualification outcomes

This qualification is aimed at commercial beekeepers or beekeepers with multiple hives. There are 18 units of competency in total, which are delivered through a combination of face-to-face training, online training, and workplace assessment. Units include managing swarms, transporting hives, requeening a colony, and WHS processes.

## What the qualification involves

The AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping is a nationally accredited qualification with a vocational outcome in beekeeping.

Completion requires a total of 18 Units of Competency comprising 13 core units and 5 elective units. One elective has been pre-selected by Tocal College as part of the Honey Bee Biosecurity course. Students may choose the remaining 4 electives. Below are the Units of Competency required to attain the Certificate.

Development of your training plan is in consultation with the Course Coordinator for the completion of your AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping.

## Units

| AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping |                                                     |          |                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Unit Code                              | Unit Name                                           |          | When provided                                                                   |
| Work Health and Safety                 |                                                     |          |                                                                                 |
| AHCWHS302                              | Contribute to workplace health and safety processes | Core     | Face-to-face training completed during Block 1.                                 |
| Beekeeping                             |                                                     |          |                                                                                 |
| AHCBEK203                              | Open and reassemble a beehive                       | Core     | Completed face-to-face in the Beginning in Bees short course during Block 1     |
| AHCBEK205                              | Prepare and use a bee smoker                        | Core     |                                                                                 |
| AHCBEK206                              | Assemble and maintain beekeeping components         | Core     | Delivered in a face-to-face workshop in Block 1                                 |
| AHCBEK313                              | Manage pests and diseases within a honey bee colony | Core     | Delivered face-to-face in the Honey Bee Biosecurity short course during Block 1 |
| FBOPR2066                              | Apply sampling procedures                           | Elective |                                                                                 |
| AHCBEK405                              | Select and establish an apiary site                 | Core     | Delivered online in Canvas                                                      |
| AHCBEK302                              | Manipulate honey bee brood                          | Core     |                                                                                 |

| <b>AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping</b> |                                                                           |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unit Code</b>                              | <b>Unit Name</b>                                                          |                 | <b>When provided</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| AHCBEK303                                     | Re-queen a honey bee colony                                               | Core            | Delivered together in the face-to-face Spring Management short course in Block 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| AHCBEK304                                     | Remove a honey crop from a hive                                           | Core            | Delivered online in Canvas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| AHCBEK312                                     | Extract honey                                                             | Core            | Delivered together online in Canvas - Quality assurance for honey extraction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| AHCWRK318                                     | Comply with industry quality assurance requirements                       | Core            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| AHCBEK311                                     | Transport bee hives by road to new apiary site                            | Core            | Delivered online in Canvas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| AHCBEK301                                     | Manage honey bee swarms                                                   | Core            | Delivered online in Canvas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Electives (Select 4)</b>                   |                                                                           |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| AHCBEK408                                     | Provide bee pollination services                                          | <b>Elective</b> | Delivered in a one-day face-to-face short course. Please note: Candidates <b>MUST</b> have extensive beekeeping experience in managing a large-scale apiary, including migratory practices and have a strong knowledge of pests and diseases of honey bees. They should be providing or planning to provide pollination services to the production of the horticulture industry, including, e.g., almonds, citrus, stone fruit, apples, canola, and blueberries. |
| AHCBEK309                                     | Trap and store pollen                                                     | <b>Elective</b> | Delivered in a one-day face-to-face short course.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| AHCPCM204                                     | Recognise plants                                                          | <b>Elective</b> | Delivered in a one-day face-to-face short course.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| AHCBEK409                                     | Rear queen bees                                                           | <b>Elective</b> | Delivered in a two-day face-to-face short course.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| AHCNRM301*                                    | Establish an Australian native stingless bee colony                       | <b>Elective</b> | Delivered as a two-day face-to-face short course (when available) OR online.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| AHCBIO203                                     | Inspect and clean machinery, tools, and equipment to preserve biosecurity | <b>Elective</b> | Imported elective – delivered online in Canvas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

Completion of 5 elective units of competency is mandatory to obtain the full qualification. These units of competency may be delivered face-to-face and/or online. Both delivery methods include practical components with practical exercises involving beehives and a range of beekeeping equipment.

Qualification packaging rules allow the importation of 2 elective units from other relevant qualifications, providing they are appropriate to beekeeping industry operations and are at a level II, III, or IV. For example, candidates may receive credit transfer if they hold a current First Aid qualification or have completed a Chemical application accreditation.

Please discuss with the course coordinator prior to Tocal College generating a quote for your AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping.

## **Tocal College entry requirements**

Due to the demand for this qualification, Tocal College has a staged application and selection process. This is a trade-level qualification, entry priority is to beekeepers currently working in the bee industry, and beekeepers seeking to diversify and/or scale up their beekeeping business operations.

Students must have:

- adequate language, literacy, and numeracy skills to complete the course
- basic to intermediate computing skills, and reliable internet speed
- access to an appropriate electronic device for learning and assessment, and appropriate software installed
- access to a video and audio recording device such as a smartphone or a webcam.

## **Course enrolment**

To be enrolled in a qualification, a student must:

1. Fill out an application form.
2. Have the application form reviewed and approved by the course coordinator.
3. Complete an interview with the Honey Bee Education Team. This may be face-to-face or on Microsoft Teams.
4. Complete a Literacy, Language, Numeracy and Digital (LLND) screening.
5. Review the Smart and Skilled fee quote provided (where funding is available).
6. Agree to payment of fees as listed on the Tocal College website or agree to the NSW Smart and Skilled Notification of Enrolment if in receipt of subsidy funding (see fees below).
7. Complete an enrolment form.
8. Pay fees as required.
9. Commence qualification after enrolment in Tocal's Student Management System

Steps 1 - 4 above are for full qualification enrolment only. Students undertaking a part qualification, Skill Set, or a single unit must complete steps 4 and 5.

Enrolment and fees paid for a qualification, or subsequent subjects, are non-transferable to any other person/s.

## Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital (LLND)

The LLND is an English Language Assessment conducted to assess English language skills in speaking, reading, writing, numeracy, and digital literacy. The assessment helps our Trainer/Assessors understand your learning needs before the commencement of study.

You will be assessed for LLND depending on the course you are applying for and the level of study already completed. You will be advised of what is required as part of the enrolment process and before commencement of training. If LLND support is required, a LLND support plan will be developed in consultation with the student.

**Total College LLND Policy** [https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1392793/LLN-Policy.pdf.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1392793/LLN-Policy.pdf.pdf)

## Timeframes and progress

All students have 2 years to complete the qualification.

Total College recognises that misadventure, accident, or extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control may prevent completion of a qualification within the standard 2-year timeframe. Students may apply for a qualification extension, and each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

If a unit is not completed within the required timeframe without prior approval, the student's enrolment in that unit will be withdrawn, and no refund will apply. Reasonable extensions may be approved by the Course Coordinator upon written request.

Re-enrolment in any withdrawn unit will require repayment of the applicable unit fee. If the student is receiving a subsidy or scholarship to undertake the qualification and fails to meet the above requirements, the fees payable by the student may vary, regardless of the original quote provided.

If a student does not complete any unit within a four-month period without prior approval, their enrolment in the qualification will be withdrawn. Total College will provide written notice one (1) month prior to the withdrawal date.

## Fees

The current fee schedules for the AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping are available on the Total College website Fees page: [https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/1142475/Industry-qualification-fee-schedule.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1142475/Industry-qualification-fee-schedule.pdf).

## How is training and assessment delivered?

### Training blocks

Face-to-face training delivery is in blocks of 3 to 4 days duration. Each block of training gradually increases Students' knowledge and skill over the course. Course completion relies on student attendance at each block. Students receive notice of block dates with ample time to plan with employers and/or workplaces for leave.

| Day                 | Unit       | Unit Name                                           | Unit Type |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Block 1</b>      |            |                                                     |           |
| 1                   | AHCWHS302  | Contribute to workplace health and safety processes | Core      |
| 1                   | AHCBEK203  | Open and reassemble a beehive                       | Core      |
| 1                   | AHCBEK205  | Prepare and use a bee smoker                        | Core      |
| 2 & 3               | AHCBEK313  | Manage pests and diseases within a honey bee colony | Core      |
| 2 & 3               | FBPOPR2066 | Apply sampling procedures                           | Elective  |
| 4                   | AHCBEK206  | Assemble and maintain beekeeping components         | Core      |
| <b>Block 2</b>      |            |                                                     |           |
| 1                   | AHCBEK309  | Trap and store pollen                               | Elective  |
| 2                   | AHCPCM204  | Recognise plants                                    | Elective  |
| 3                   | AHCBEK408  | Provide bee pollination services                    | Elective  |
| <b>Block 3</b>      |            |                                                     |           |
| 1 & 2               | AHCBEK302  | Manipulate honey bee brood                          | Core      |
| 1 & 2               | AHCBEK303  | Re-queen a honey bee colony                         | Core      |
| 3 & 4               | AHCBEK409  | Rear queen bees                                     | Elective  |
| <b>Short Course</b> |            |                                                     |           |
| 1 & 2               | AHCNRM301* | Establish an Australian native stingless bee colony | Elective  |

Block 2: Electives are subject to change, and attendance requirements vary; contact your course coordinator.

\*Short Course: AHCNRM301 Establish an Australian native stingless bee colony, may be completed as a 2-day short course OR online. Please note this course has prerequisites. Discuss this elective with the Honey Bee Education Team.

## Face-to-face training

Face-to-face training delivery by Tocal College staff and involves classroom-based theory and practical skills training and assessment in an operational apiary or workshop facility. Assessment is a combination of written tests and observations of you performing the required skills outlined in the unit of competency you are undertaking.

Training for your AHC31824 Certificate III in Beekeeping occurs at Tocal College. Training usually begins at 8:30 am, ending by 4.00 pm, including catered morning tea and lunch.

Accommodation is available for students on-site on a first-come, first-served basis. Breakfast and dinner are available in the dining hall and must be booked and paid for upon arrival at reception.

## 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 student management system - **Canvas**. You will receive a login to Canvas after completing your enrolment. 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.

**Please note:** Online units have a 3-month time allocation. Extensions will require consultation with your trainer.

## Workplace assessment

Workplace Assessment involves Students undertaking compulsory learning through the Tocal College online course portal prior to college staff observing them perform the beekeeping tasks outlined in the Units of Competency in a real apiary or workplace situation. Workplace assessment may be available to those operating within a commercial beekeeping context only or to trainees.

## Credit transfer

Tocal College recognises the Australian Quality Framework (AQF) qualifications and Statements of Attainment issued by any other Registered Training Organisation (RTO) in any Australian state and/or territory. This can be done by providing Tocal College with access to view your Unique Student Identifier (USI) transcript online.

## Withdrawing your enrolment

Should you decide to cancel or withdraw from your training, you must advise us by email.

If you discontinue your training without completing your chosen qualification, we will send you a Statement of Attainment for any completed Units of Competency within 30 days of your final assessment and once all outstanding fees have been paid.

## Student policies and procedures

The links below will provide you with Tocal College's Student policies and procedures, including fees, complaints and appeals, internet and social media, bullying and harassment, drugs, and alcohol. Please contact your course coordinator should you wish to discuss any concerns.

### **Tocal College Student Handbook**

[https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1573904/Tocal-College-Student-Handbook.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1573904/Tocal-College-Student-Handbook.pdf)

### **Tocal College Internet and Social Media Policy**

[https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1139065/Internet-and-Social-Media-Policy.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1139065/Internet-and-Social-Media-Policy.pdf)

### **Tocal College Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment Policy**

[https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/1439025/Bullying-Discrimination-and-Harassment-Policy.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1439025/Bullying-Discrimination-and-Harassment-Policy.pdf)

### **Tocal College Sexual Misconduct Policy**

[https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1439026/Sexual-Misconduct-Policy.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1439026/Sexual-Misconduct-Policy.pdf)

### **Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy**

[https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1440593/Alcohol-and-Other-Drug-Policy.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1440593/Alcohol-and-Other-Drug-Policy.pdf)

### **Alcohol and Drug Testing Policy**

[https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1439027/Alcohol-and-Drug-Testing-Policy.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1439027/Alcohol-and-Drug-Testing-Policy.pdf)

### **Tocal College Complaints and Appeals Form**

[https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/1139067/college-complaints-and-appeals-form.pdf](https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1139067/college-complaints-and-appeals-form.pdf)