

Land and Water Management Diploma

Two-year post-secondary diploma program

Please read and think about the following information below carefully to decide whether this program is a good fit for you. This information may change and is simply intended to offer you a helpful perspective on what you will experience in this program.

Orientation:	Typically, during the last week of August (Required for all students)
Program Dates:	September through April (Year 1 courses); May through August (Co-operative Education); September through April (Year 2 courses).
Scheduled Breaks:	Last week of December and first week of January (two weeks); first week of March (one week). Check your registration for exact dates.
Post-Graduation Work Permit length:	Up to 3 years
Schedule:	Monday to Friday as early as 8:00 a.m. and as late as 6:00 p.m. You will receive a schedule of required field days which will be different times of day.
Campus Location:	1430 Victoria Avenue East, Brandon, Manitoba. See campus information here .

What You'll Study:

The program brings together natural resources, technology and environmental science in a Canadian prairie ecosystem context. Course areas include ecosystems, plants and soils, fisheries and wildlife, ecology, chemistry, GIS and other technology, statistics, legal and other issues, communication and professionalism.

See course descriptions on the [Land and Water Management Diploma](#) page under 'Courses and Costs'.

How You'll "Learn by Doing"

- In the Agro-Ecology Field Laboratory and other courses, you'll be outside "in the field" for much of your learning. You'll do laboratory exercises and guided agricultural and environmental site tours.
- You'll apply your learning and skills in the classrooms, labs and field site visits.
- Year 2 includes a major "capstone" project and presentations; you will "tie together" your learning.
- See video about the program here: <https://youtu.be/IGUzF6XLsJk>

- Between Year 1 and 2 (usually), you gain practical experience by finding a summer job in the industry (Co-operative Education). Instructors will assist you to present yourself professionally.
- NOTE: It will be important to have a valid Manitoba Class 5 **driver's license**. Most jobs will require it. If you do not have a driver's license in your home country, you likely cannot get a Manitoba license in time to do Co-operative Education as scheduled. See information [here](#) and [here](#).

What You'll Need to Do to Graduate

- Attend all classes, activities and field trips; arrive on time every day.
- Purchase all required books and supplies, including safety clothing and equipment.
- Work co-operatively in teams and behave respectfully to all students, staff and partners. **English only.**
- **No cell phones** during class activity.
- Share work of maintaining labs, including cleaning.
- Manage physical demands like walking a long distance on rough/uneven land, lifting equipment, loud noise. Weather conditions can be difficult (hot or cold, rain or snow, dust, mud, insects).
- Practice all skills until you can demonstrate "mastery"—do them correctly and quickly.
- To graduate, you must pass all courses **and** have a grade point average (GPA) of C (60%). Passing many courses with only a D (50%) can make your GPA too low to graduate. Re-testing is generally not an option. If you fail a course, it may not be available again until the following year.
- All English skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) are important. Evaluation will include tests, group projects, presentations, public events and research papers.
- **Do your own work.** Cheating, not referencing sources of your ideas, or using other people's work could result in failing grades/suspension.

How Assiniboine College Can Help You

- Trained instructors will share their knowledge and experience from the industry, and will give you frequent and specific feedback on your progress.
- Learning Commons staff available to assist with study skills, like test-taking and writing papers.
- Student advising staff can offer support for personal issues.
- A Regulated International Student Immigration Advisor can answer questions related to permits.

Job Options for Graduates

- Graduates are employed with industry, conservation districts, agricultural organizations and all levels of government and industry.
- Types of jobs include research, management, consulting and administration of sustainable land use practices.
- Most jobs will require working outside, sometimes in unpleasant weather. Many jobs will require work on your own in remote areas (like forest or grassland).
- Most jobs will have physical demands like in the program. Some will require ability to lift heavy loads.

- Some jobs will require evening and weekend work and/or long hours of work, especially in the spring/summer/fall months.
- All jobs will require a **valid Manitoba Class 5 driver's license**; many will require you to drive daily outside of the city's bus system. See information [here](#) and [here](#).
- Most job opportunities will be outside of a city, in a smaller town or rural area.
- **Possible** jobs on Manitoba In-Demand Occupations list: [Biologists and Related Scientists](#).

Other important information:

- **Field trips** could involve hot, cold, rainy or windy weather. You could be walking a long distance on uneven ground and in fields of dirt or crops. You could be working in snow or rain or in rivers. There could be biting insects. You will need comfortable and warm shoes/boots and clothing. Your instructors will help you identify appropriate clothing and ways to remain comfortable in the field.
- **Location of most jobs** will be outside of a city, so you will have the best opportunities if you will live and work in a small rural community.
- **Co-op work permit** will be **required** by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. You must apply for this permit and receive it *before* you start a co-op job. Processing time can be long, so do this as early as possible. See the IRCC website [here](#).