

## **Agribusiness 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 science and business of agriculture: crops, livestock, ecology, equipment, pests, customer relations, soils, math, accounting, marketing, technology, communications, management, business planning.

See course descriptions on the [Agribusiness Program](#) 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 meet agricultural producers and businesses to learn from them.
- You'll apply your learning and skills in the classrooms, grow plots and agriculture labs.
- Year 2 includes a major business plan project and presentations; you will need to "tie together" all of your learning.

- Between Year 1 and 2 (usually), you gain practical experience by finding a summer job in the agribusiness sector (Co-operative Education). Instructors will assist you to present yourself professionally.
- NOTE: It will be important to have a valid Manitoba **driver's license**. Most jobs will be outside of the city's bus system. 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 towards 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, often on rough/uneven land, or lifting equipment into a vehicle.
  - 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 grain companies, seed and crop input suppliers, banks and credit unions, livestock supply outlets, agricultural equipment dealers, government agencies, agronomists/consultants, and co-operatives.
- Types of jobs include agriculture, agronomy, sales and service, finance, livestock, marketing, management, research, administration and precision agriculture.

- Most jobs will require working outside, sometimes in unpleasant weather.
- Some jobs will require evening and weekend work and/or long hours of work, especially in the spring/summer/fall months.
- Almost all jobs will require a **valid Manitoba 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: [Agricultural Representatives](#), [Consultants or Specialists](#).

**Other important information:**

- **Field trips** will generally be outside; the weather could be cool or windy or rainy. You could be walking a long distance on uneven ground and in fields of dirt or crops. There could be insects. You will need comfortable and warm shoes/boots and clothing.
- **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](#).