

“QUESTIONS TO ASK THE SCHOOL” Q&A – HORTICULTURE DIPLOMA

1. Q: What are the methods of instruction and the time spent on each?

A: Most of the courses taught in the Horticulture program include both lecture and lab components. Each course description will indicate the number of lecture–lab hours per week (ie. 3-2 would mean that the course consists of three hours of lectures and a two-hour lab per week in each of the 12 weeks of instruction).

2. Q: What certification will you get upon completion of this course (program)?

A: You will earn an Associate Diploma in Horticulture from the University of Guelph.

3. Q: How will your progress be monitored and reported?

A: Students receive both mid-term and final grades each semester.

4. Q: How many hours of home study are expected per week?

A: On average a student would spend 10 hours per week working on assignments outside of scheduled class time.

5. Q: Are detailed course descriptions available to prospective students?

A: YES, the course descriptions can be found on our www.ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca website under ‘Second Career’ as well as on the University of Guelph website (online diploma calendar).

6. Q: What resources are available if you require additional help in courses?

A: There are peer helpers available to all students (free of charge) for academic assistance. The instructors of the courses are also available for additional help (contact information of the instructor(s) of each course is provided on the Course Outline given to students at the beginning of each semester).

7. Q: What percentage of students who are enrolled in the program successfully complete it?

A: On average, 85 - 90% of students will complete this program.

8. Q: What academic counseling is available prior to starting school and during the training period?

A: There is a general program counselor available as well as assistance from the coordinator of the Horticulture program.

9. Q: How does the school accommodate the needs of adult learners?

A: (answer same as #8)

10. Q: What are the qualifications of the instructors?

A: Degree; masters; PhD status as well as many with several years of industry experience/ties.

11. Q: Do students have the opportunity to evaluate the instructors and the courses?

A: Yes, course evaluations are offered for each course near the end of each semester.

12. Q: Does the institution have publicized policies dealing with human rights issues?

A: Yes, all Guelph University student policies will be found in the diploma calendar found at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/>

13. Q: Are you allowed to audit classes?

A: YES

14. Q: Will the school provide references?

A: Graduate statements can be found either on our website at http://www.ridgetownc.com/future/programs_dhrt_studentssay.cfm or in our Admissions Guide book.

15. Q: Will there be a practicum or work placement?

A: Students in the Horticulture diploma program may earn an Experiential Learning credit through summer work experience as outlined in the following course description:
“Student-initiated learning opportunities can be developed as a credit course in consultation with a supervising faculty member. Details of the activities included in the program will be outlined in a learning contract initiated by the student and agreed to by the faculty supervisor prior to the commencement of the work experience.”

16. Q: How does the institution support continuing education/upgrading for graduates in this field of work?

A: Successful students in this program may apply to transfer into a major of the Bachelor of Science (Agr) through OAC, Guelph University with advanced standing credits.

17. Q: How does the institution make an effort to place its graduates in jobs after completion of the program?

A: A career placement officer is available on campus to assist with job searches, as well as job postings being available on our website. A job fair is also held each year. Resume writing assistance is available, as well as resume faxing availability.

18. Q: What percentage of graduates from this training find work in a field related to their education?

A: On average, 80-85% of graduates of this program find employment within the Horticulture industry.

19. Q: List of employers who hire graduates from this program.

A: Landscape design/construction companies; nurseries; greenhouse operations; floral shops; garden centres; etc.

20. Q: How will the credentials you receive be recognized by the industry?

A: Graduates who possess University of Guelph’s Horticulture diploma are well recognized in the industry, as indicated by the high percentage of employment rate.