

**FOOTHILL COLLEGE**  
**Credit Program Narrative**  
**Certificate of Achievement Landscape Technician**

Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

The goal of this program is to provide instruction and field practice in the establishment and maintenance of landscapes, particularly landscapes in public areas. Students will receive instruction in identification of soil issues, safe equipment operation, plant problems, pruning, planting, fine gardening, plant fertilization and care and disposal of materials. The program will emphasize sustainable approaches to fine gardening where applicable. This program is consistent with the mission of community colleges in that is prepared to establish entry level career education to the following career choices:

- Grounds maintenance
- Parks maintenance
- Fine gardening
- Greens keeper

The primary program objective is for students to be able to safely, effectively and esthetically establish and maintain public landscapes. Specific objectives for this program area as follows:

- identify various types of soil structure and texture.
- collect soil samples, test for major, secondary and trace elements, pH, EC, water percolation and water holding capacity.
- demonstrate knowledge of the terms and principles of soil chemistry, physics, and commercial management.
- evaluate the health and value of nursery stock to be planted in the landscape.
- practice and achieve proficiency in the safe handling of various landscape maintenance equipment, including hand tools and power equipment.

discuss the benefits of healthy soils and the contribution composting makes to plant nutrition.

demonstrate an understanding of the theory, techniques, and maintenance practices used in composting and vermicomposting.

demonstrate the ability to construct and maintain a variety of composting and vermicomposting systems.

## Item 2. Catalog Description

The Landscape Technician Certificate of Achievement is a low unit certificate to be conducted in partnership with academic organizations seeking credentials for students in a field-based program. This program is designed to provide enrollees engaged in a hands-on learning experience an opportunity to use their field experience combined with classroom instruction to obtain a Certificate that will aid in their employment after completion of their school experience. Students may be enrolled in a variety of academic programs in order to qualify for participation in this certificate. To complete the program students must successfully complete all of the courses listed below for a total of 18 units. Career options for this certificate include:

- Grounds maintenance

- Parks maintenance

- Fine gardening

- Greenskeeper

### Item 3. Program Requirements

Requirements	Dept. Name/ #	Name	Units
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### Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections

It is anticipated that approximately 10 to 15 students will choose this program when established, with that number significantly higher if relationships with other organizations are established. There are current discussions being undertaken by the Apprenticeship Program at Foothill to establish a program for CTE based programs and schools in the south bay area. Students that are enrolled in a qualified sponsor organization may qualify to concurrently enroll in the Foothill College program. The program can be administered in cohorts of approximately 30 students, with enrollments being offered each year. Of this number, we anticipate between 25 and 28 of the enrollees will complete the program of study in the first year, with similar success numbers after 5 years of the program.

		<Year 1>	<Year 2>
Course			
Department	Course Title	Annual	
Number		#	
		Sections	





This certificate compares to the proposed Foothill certificate in that students are being directed towards careers in parks and grounds. The program is very extensive in required coursework with courses in pest identification and management and arboriculture. The Foothill certificate is, again, shorter and more lab oriented with extensive field experience.

Cabrillo College, Aptos (17 unit certificate in general Horticultural skills)

The program at Cabrillo is the closest to the Foothill proposal in length (17 units vs. 18 units) and includes courses focused on crop production and pest management. The only course identified as providing field experience is a 1 unit work experience course. As with the other related programs, the Cabrillo course is heaviest in the classroom experience and minimal in field/lab experience. Cabrillo's certificate is also one that is generally focused rather than specifically targeting the maintenance aspect of the field.

Mt. Diablo College, Pleasant Hill (24.5 unit certificate in landscape construction and management)

Mt. Diablo's certificate provides some opportunity for lab/field work (up to 4 units), but is more focused on turf, plant id, and construction related courses. Mt. Diablo would also be a considerable distance (70 miles) for local students to commute to work on their certificate.

Research was also done in an attempt to find within the service area alternative programs, including those based on internships or apprenticeships, that might offer programs similar to the Foothill proposal. The only related program was a Landscape Technician program offered in San Ramon CA operated by a labor based organization. They currently did not display any agreements or show any history of landscape related contracts. The full list of apprenticeship programs is included in Appendix B.





Appendix A  
Landscape Certificate and Associate Degrees in the Bay Area

**Intermediate Landscape and Parks Maintenance**









## Appendix B

Apprenticeship sponsors in the State of California:

Apprenticeship Name

Apprenticeship Sponsor

**Distance**

