



## Horticulture and Landscape Technologies

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What can I do with a horticulture degree?

A certificate or Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Horticulture and Landscape Technologies will prepare you to work in any of the three main branches of landscape horticulture. These fields also have great self employment opportunities.

- **Landscape Contracting:** Includes careers in irrigation contracting, and residential or commercial landscape construction.
- **Landscape Maintenance:** The maintenance of residential, commercial and governmental landscapes. Careers include working for landscape maintenance firms doing a wide range of skilled tasks; working for a parks department or city doing park and median maintenance; working at a golf course or sports facility as a turfgrass maintenance technician or irrigation technician; or working for tree care companies (arborists or tree surgeons) as a climber/tree surgeon or as a plant health care technician.
- **Production Horticulture:** Jobs range from working for a retail garden center in sales and customer service to working for wholesale nurseries and greenhouses as a grower, propagator, or wholesale salesperson. [Learn more about the industry.](#)

#### How do FRCC horticulture degrees compare to CSU's Master Gardener certificate or Denver Botanic Garden's Rocky Mountain Gardening certificate?

Both Colorado State University's (CSU) Master Gardener program and Denver Botanic Garden's (DBG) Rocky Mountain Gardening are great ways for gardening enthusiasts to learn more about gardening and participate in the wider horticulture industry. FRCC's degrees are college training for those entering the field as a career. FRCC is an accredited college, and to meet degree requirements students complete, on average, about 1500 hours of class time in courses that spend 30-80 hours in one subject area.

[CSU's Master Gardener](#) certification is about 66 hours of classroom training in basic horticulture, entomology, and plant disease diagnosis followed by participants having the opportunity for further their own studies while volunteering at a CSU extension office or event after they have finished the basic master gardener classes.

For [DBG's Rocky Mountain Gardening Certificate](#), students complete a set of required continuing education courses offered by DBG, perform 40 hours of volunteer service, and pass a comprehensive exam over the courses they've taken.

### **Do I have to enroll as a degree seeker or can I enroll for individual classes or take classes for continuing education?**

You do not have to enroll as a degree seeking student to take FRCC horticulture classes. We encourage those who are thinking of pursuing a degree to enroll in a class for college credit.

You may also enroll for the same class as a non-credit continuing education student through FRCC's [Continuing Education](#). You can take advantage of the educational opportunities FRCC provides without going through the enrollment and assessment process required of students enrolled for in credit classes. Since testing and assignments are then optional, it also provides busy industry professionals the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills without the stress of taking a class for credit. Enrollment is limited and must be made through Continuing Education. This is a great way for those who think they may want to pursue a degree to get a feel for our classes or for those needing professional development through continuing education. Continuing Education students are asked to observe the state prerequisite course requirements so they are at the same level as our degree-seeking students. Restrictions apply in converting non-credit to credit classes; we recommend you see an [advisor](#) or a faculty member for more details.

### **Does FRCC accept high school credits as college coursework?**

This is called an "articulation agreement." Check with your [advisor](#) to find out whether we have an articulation agreement with your high school and what technical areas it may cover.

### **When & where are classes offered?**

The program is offered at the [Westminster Campus](#) and [Larimer Campus](#). The programs operate on slightly different schedules. At Larimer, most classes are offered in the afternoon, while at Westminster most classes are offered in late afternoon and evening (3:00-9:00 pm). At Westminster, landscape design courses (HLT 130 & HLT140) are offered in the afternoon (noon-4:00pm).

Classes are offered on a rotating basis in both fall and spring semesters. You may view [current offerings](#).

### **Do FRCC courses transfer to CSU?**

FRCC courses transfer to CSU as part of the [state guaranteed transfer](#) program (directly or as electives). Some FRCC horticulture classes transfer directly to the Bachelors of Science in Horticulture at CSU. We recommend you be simultaneously advised by a CSU and a FRCC faculty member.

### **What does the internship require?**

Internships are completed by students nearing graduation. Internships are usually paid jobs (they can be summer jobs or even your current job); but there is more to it than just working for someone. Employers agree to guide you through a set of experiences (meetings, activities, etc.) that assures us you've had the opportunity to see the whole scope of what a job may entail. For instance, host

companies are required to make sure you complete a set of stated activities in customer service, business operations, equipment usage and safety, business finance, and business management.

**Do I have to enroll for a degree program? Do I have to earn a certificate and an associate degree, or can I earn just one or the other?**

While we love having our students earn degrees, the answer to these questions is it is up to you. You can take one class if you need to learn specific skills or information for a job, or you can earn a certificate that focuses on one aspect of the industry, or earn an AAS degree. Courses that you complete along the way for a specific skill or a certificate will also apply toward your AAS degree. We've designed it this way with your future in mind. The Green Industry is really a collection of very closely allied industries, and our certificates and degree have been designed to build on each other so you are ready for a career in which you move from one part of the industry to another. Here's how it works:

Each certificate program provides you with all the core classes you will need in a career field. The degree gives students a wider understanding of our industry and expands their skill set by requiring a set of classes from each segment of our industry. This design means that by selecting two related certificate programs (like our Turfgrass Management and Irrigation Management certificates or our Landscape Design and Landscape Construction Technician certificates) a student will earn most of the credits they will need for their AAS degree. A faculty member can guide you.

**I already have a degree but want to get an Associate of Applied Science or certificate. Can I transfer credits into the program?**

FRCC accepts the [transfer of applicable credits](#) from other accredited institutions of higher learning. To earn a degree from FRCC students must complete at least 15 credit hours of their AAS degree or 25 percent of their certificate as an enrolled student at FRCC.

**Can I take an independent study class as part of my program of study?**

Yes, up to six (6) credits of independent study is allowed, and you must work with your program faculty advisor to determine appropriate course content for your degree program.

**Where can employers post job openings for students?**

We love to hear from employers looking for employees. If you are an employer looking for seasonal or permanent employees post your job announcement on [Front Range Connect](#).

**Can I enter the workforce before I complete my degree?**

Yes, in fact most of our students are employed in the industry before they graduate.

**Are there jobs in our industry right now?**

Yes, and they are becoming more technically demanding every day. A degree or certificate will give you the skills you need to compete in today's workforce.

**Can you help me find seasonal or permanent employment?**

FRCC students have access to [Front Range Connect](#), an online job board operated by the college.

Students can also talk to their program faculty members for direction or look on the job bulletin boards in the horticulture classroom area.