



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.

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 but you will be encouraged to by an advisor. We encourage those who are thinking of pursuing a degree to declare their major in that field.

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.

Classes are offered on a rotating basis in both fall and spring semesters. [Click here](#) to search the current schedule offerings.

Do FRCC courses transfer to CSU?

If you are considering transferring to CSU in their Horticulture program you should pursue one of the guarantee transfer associate degrees: [Horticulture Business Management](#) and [Landscape Business Management](#). If you are pursuing a degree at FRCC only, choose the [Associate of Applied Science degree](#) and/or a [certificate](#).

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, earn the AAS degree or transfer an AS degree to CSU. 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 Horticulture 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:

The Horticulture certificate program provides you with a basic understanding of plants, soils and math that you will need in this career field. The specialty certificates allow students to learn more about a

single segment of the industry. This design means that by selecting two certificate programs a student will earn many 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.

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 at the [Career Services](#) page.

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.