Kentucky Career Center
Vocational Rehabilitation

CDPVTC Training Area

Groundskeeping

The Groundskeeping training program is designed to meet the entry-level workforce needs of any business that employs groundskeeping, landscaping, and/or plant nursery workers.

Expectations & Requirements

While on the job, you will be expected to display the following traits at all times:

- Punctuality and dependability
- Attention to detail and accuracy
- Cooperation
- Ability to actively listen
- Capacity to communicate effectively
- Self-control

Course Duration and Sequence

To complete the Groundskeeping program students should expect to spend approximately 2 months or 200 hours in training. For the Nursery Worker program, expect to spend about 5 months or 600 hours in training.

With the addition of ancillary services as well as individual pace, student completion timelines will vary.

Learning Objectives

- Use hand tools like shovels, rakes, pruning saws, saws, hedge or brush trimmers, and axes
- Operate vehicles or powered equipment, such as mowers,tractors, twin-axle vehicles, snow blowers, chain-saws, electric clippers, sod cutters or pruning saws.
- Watering lawns, trees, and plants using sprinklers, hoses or watering cans
- Pruning and trimming trees, shrubs, and hedges with shears or chainsaws
- Mixing and applying fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides to grass, shrubs or trees
- Care for established lawns by mulching, aerating, weeding,removing thatch, or trimming around flowerbeds, walks or walls
- Gather and remove litter
- Trim or pick flowers and clean flower beds
- Planting seeds, bulbs, plants, trees, grass or shrubs and using mulch for protection
- Raking, mulching and composting leaves
- Using irrigation methods to conserve water and prevent waste

Career **Options**

After finishing the Grounds Keeping training program, students will be prepared for entry-level jobs in two main areas: Landscaper/Grounds Keeper and Nursery Worker.

As a **Landscaper/Grounds Keeper**, you'll be responsible for tasks such as watering lawns, trees, and plants using sprinklers or hoses, removing litter, pruning or trimming trees and shrubs, planting seeds and bulbs, mowing or edging lawns, shoveling snow, caring for established lawns by mulching and weeding, and maintaining flowerbeds, among other duties.

If you choose to become a **Nursery Worker**, your work will involve planting, spraying, weeding, fertilizing and watering plants, shrubs and trees. You'll also harvest plants, clean work areas, sell and deliver plants to customers, provide advice on plant care, maintain irrigation systems, record plant information and handle inventory, among other tasks.

All students in the Grounds Keeping training program will have the opportunity to obtain a 10-Hour OSHA Agriculture Safety certification.

Upon completing the program, students may go on to work in a multitude of places including, but not limited to employment in schools, landscaping companies, greenhouses, hospitals, parks and recreational areas. There are many possibilities for where you can work and apply your skills.

- Maintaining sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and other grounds features
- Clearing snow from walkways and spreading salt in icy areas.
- Maintain irrigation systems, including winterizing the systems and starting them up in spring
- Maintaining natural turf fields by ensuring proper soil composition and drainage
- Haul or spread topsoil or spread straw over seeded soil to hold soil in place

Minimum Requirements

There are no specific academic requirements to enter the Grounds Keeping training program. However, there are certain physical abilities and skills that students should have. These include:

- Being able to walk, stand, bend, stoop, kneel, extend and twist for moderate to long periods of time
- Having the strength to lift and carry items weighing 50pounds regularly and 75-100 lbs occasionally
- Able to handle different temperatures and tolerate exposure to dust, allergens, noise and chemicals
- Having good communication skills and vision
- Being able to use hands, arms, prosthetics or arm stick devices effectively.

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EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

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