

# APPRENTICESHIP IN ARBORIST TECHNICIAN

## At a Glance

### Faculty

kpu.ca/science (<http://kpu.ca/science/>)

### Area of Study:

kpu.ca/hort (<http://kpu.ca/hort/>)

### Academic Level:

Vocational

### Credential Granted:

### Intake Type:

- Open

## Description

Arborists manage and care for the trees in our urban environment. The arborist technician is the first of three sequential trades credentials in arboriculture. The arborist technician job focuses on work conducted from the ground and in support of the climbing arborist (second credential).

Arborist Technician Apprenticeship combines on-the-job training and classroom learning. An apprenticeship is established when an apprentice obtains a SkilledTradesBC Identification Number and registers their apprenticeship and sponsoring employer with SkilledTradesBC. After apprentices have registered with SkilledTradesBC, they can apply to register at KPU for in-class training. Apprentices may apply to SkilledTradesBC to recognize prior work based training hours. Refer to [skilledtradesbc.ca](https://skilledtradesbc.ca/) (<https://skilledtradesbc.ca/>) for information.

Arborist Technician Apprentices attend 8-weeks of in-class and applied technical training at the KPU Langley Campus.

The Arborist Technician program was established by arboriculture subject matter experts and SkilledTradesBC. Topics include tree and shrub identification, rigging and climbing, pruning, planting, falling, equipment use, and safe work practices. The curriculum used for technical training has been developed and approved by the arboriculture industry.

Journeypersons in arboriculture are in demand. Certified arborist technicians work in municipal parks departments, school boards, golf courses and for private arboriculture companies.

## Training Schedules

KPU apprentice training schedules and waitlists are published on the Registration Application (<https://reg-prod.ec.kpu.ca/StudentRegistrationSsb/ssb/registration/>). Additional apprenticeship training opportunities are listed on Trades Training BC (<https://www.tradestrainingbc.ca/>); this is the hub for BC's Public Trades Training Programs & Services.

## Costs

In addition to applicable tuition fees, students require the following:

- textbooks (Available at the KPU Campus Store at the start of classes)
- school supplies
- safety footwear (in conformance with WorkSafeBC regulations)
- rain gear and outdoor work wear including work gloves
- professional quality hand held bypass pruners
- field trips
- travel
- accommodation and food

## Financial Supports for Apprentices

Apprentices may be eligible for financial support for the in-class portion of their training through the EPBC Apprentice Program Financial Supports. Application to this program must be made four to six weeks prior to the start of technical training. Information is available through WorkBC.

Apprentices must apply separately for Employment Insurance (EI) Benefits no later than the last week of work, or during the first week of training, or they will not be eligible to receive EPBC Apprentice Program Financial Supports. EI information can be obtained by visiting Service Canada.

The Canada Apprentice Loan is an initiative of the Government of Canada. As of January 2015, apprentices can apply for up to \$4,000 in interest-free loans per period of in-school technical training. Information is available at the Canada Apprentice Loan Service Centre.

## Student Profile

Students interested in the Arborist Technician apprenticeship program will have a strong desire for hands-on outdoor work, enjoy working in nature and with living things, and be interested in learning about the trees in ecosystems they work in. Individuals with allergies to dust, pollen or plant products, or specific chemicals should be aware of the potential impact on their health. Physical fitness and a healthy back are generally required for a successful career in arboriculture. Apprentices may work with plant protection products.

Apprentices in the practical Arborist Technician Apprenticeship program typically have some work experience or are interested in working in number of arboriculture enterprises. For example, they may be working for arboriculture companies, golf courses, municipal parks, school boards, and landscape maintenance or construction companies.

## Requirements

### General Prerequisites

The following requirements apply:

- Completed KPU Apprentice Registration (<http://kpu.ca/trades/apprenticeship-registration/>).
- Active apprentice registration in the BC Apprenticeship system.
- Valid Trade Worker Identification number from SkilledTradesBC. If you do not have SkilledTradesBC ID, you will need to complete an apprenticeship registration form through SkilledTradesBC ([www.skilledtradesbc.ca](http://www.skilledtradesbc.ca) (<https://skilledtradesbc.ca/>)) prior to enrolling. To determine your eligibility please consult with SkilledTradesBC.
- Grade 10 or equivalent, including English 10, Math 10 and Science 10 is recommended.

Note: International student enrollment requires approval of the Dean.

## Curricular Requirements

Note: AARB courses are assessed Tuition Category 2.b.2 tuition and fees for domestic students. KPU Tech does not permit students to register in Apprenticeship Levels out of sequence.

Curricular requirements are established by the Arborist Technician Program of SkilledTradesBC. Details are available on the Arborist Technician webpage at [skilledtradesbc.ca](https://skilledtradesbc.ca/) (<https://skilledtradesbc.ca/>).

Code	Title	Credits
AARB 1010	Arborist Technician	
AARB 1011	The Safety Conscious Arborist (A1,A4-A6,H1-H4)	
AARB 1012	Plant Identification (D1, D2)	
AARB 1013	Biology, Pruning & Planting (D3-D6)	
AARB 1014	Falling and Bucking (E1-E8)	
AARB 1015	Rigging and Climbing (F1-F4, G1)	
AARB 1016	Tools and Equipment (B1-B4, C1-C4)	

## Credential Awarded

Upon successful completion of an apprentice level, KPU will report your technical training completion information to SkilledTradesBC in order for SkilledTradesBC to determine credit towards your designated apprenticeship.

## Courses

### AARB 1010 0 credits

#### Arborist Technician

Apprentices will study and practice the skills required to become a successful arborist technician. The arborist technician works primarily from the ground and supports climbing arborists and field arborists. They will practice using larger equipment such as chippers and stump cutters and will learn to work around bucket trucks. Apprentices will work with chainsaws. They will learn basic rigging techniques and be introduced to climbing equipment. Apprentices will begin to develop plant identification skills and will prune a variety of smaller trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers.

Level: VO

Prerequisite(s): 1. Valid Trade Worker ID Number 2. Active apprentice registration in the BC Apprenticeship system 3. Class 5 Driver's license 4. English 10 or better preferred 5. Additional requirements mandated by SkilledTradesBC may be required, contact Apprenticeship Services for information

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

### AARB 1011 0 credits

#### The Safety Conscious Arborist (A1,A4-A6,H1-H4)

Active engagement in workplace safety is the responsibility of the arborist technician. The apprentice will identify the regulations that impact arboriculture activities. They will identify work site hazards, contribute to the development of safe work plans and implement safe work plans. They will be able to respond to emergencies such as climbing arborist evacuations, fires and hazardous material spills.

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

### AARB 1012 0 credits

#### Plant Identification (D1, D2)

The planting, pruning, and maintenance decisions by the arborist technician are contingent on the correct identification of the trees and shrubs in question. Apprentices will identify 30 commonly used trees and 20 commonly used shrubs based on morphological characteristics. These characteristics include but are not limited to bark, inflorescences, leaf characteristics and growth habit. Apprentices will be introduced to the use of dichotomous keys as an aid in the identification of unknown specimens.

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

### AARB 1013 0 credits

#### Biology, Pruning & Planting (D3-D6)

Apprentices will describe basic tree biology and be able to outline the relationship between tree biology and tree care. The relevant aspects of tree anatomy will be used to guide the pruning and planting procedures. Apprentices will assess the requirements for pruning, select the appropriate tools, and prune trees and shrubs. The application safe work practices and the assessment of hazardous conditions around trees are used to determine the specific pruning practices. Apprentices will describe and engage in the planting of trees.

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

### AARB 1014 0 credits

#### Falling and Bucking (E1-E8)

Apprentices will describe basic tree biology and be able to outline the relationship between tree biology and tree care. The relevant aspects of tree anatomy will be used to guide the pruning and planting procedures. Apprentices will assess the requirements for pruning, select the appropriate tools, and prune trees and shrubs. The application safe work practices and the assessment of hazardous conditions around trees are used to determine the specific pruning practices. Apprentices will describe and engage in the planting of trees.

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

### AARB 1015 0 credits

#### Rigging and Climbing (F1-F4, G1)

Apprentices will explain the purposes, techniques, and limitations of rigging. They will tie a range of knots used in rigging and be able to identify and select the ropes and knots appropriate to a variety of rigging tasks. They will identify, maintain and inspect the rigging hardware. Apprentices will also select and inspect basic climbing gear.

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1016 0 credits****Tools and Equipment (B1-B4, C1-C4)**

Apprentices will demonstrate the safe and effective operation of a chipper and stump grinder. They will demonstrate the ground tasks associated with aerial lift truck operations. Apprentices will operate and single axle dump truck and be able to attach and load equipment onto a trailer safely and legally. Note the apprentice must have a valid driver's license. Apprentices will also operate and maintain a variety of hand and small power tools. They will practice the safe use and inspection of ladders.

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1017 0 credits****Arboriculturist Final Exam**

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1018 0 credits****Arboriculturist Final Exam**

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1020 0 credits****Climbing Arborist**

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1021 0 credits****Tree Identification**

A Climbing Arborist has a working knowledge of a variety of different tree species and can identify them using a variety of methodologies. Apprentices will identify a variety of tree species common to British Columbia using several different methodologies. Apprentices will describe the morphological characteristics of a variety of common trees, including buds, leaf scar, stems, bark, inflorescences, leaf arrangement and morphology, and growth habit. The apprentice will also select appropriate trees for planting on site conditions and assess the trees prior to installation. (Lines D7, D13)

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1022 0 credits****Tree Assessment**

Climbing Arborists occasionally assess options and apply appropriate actions to solve abiotic disorders of trees in a safe and effective manner. The apprentice will be able to assess trees for common abiotic tree disorders, including assessment of soils and tree structural conditions. The apprentice will apply basic actions such as pruning, wound tracing and treatments to mitigate abiotic tree disorders. (Lines D7, D10)

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1023 0 credits****Tree Disease Identification**

The Climbing Arborist apprentice will identify and diagnose common woody plant pests and diseases in British Columbia. The apprentice will select and install structural supports in trees to reduce tree failure, reduce tree hazards, and improve structure for tree restoration purposes, according to Industry standards. (Lines D8, D9, D11, D14)

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1024 0 credits****Pruning, Planning and Risk**

The Climbing Arborist must understand factors and associated risks influencing the safe execution of the job and to develop safe procedures. The apprentice will learn to identify and understand all factors and associated risks influencing the safe execution of the job. The apprentice will learn to develop and communicate a safe job plan. The apprentice will prune a wide variety of trees while using appropriate techniques and tools. (Lines I1,2,3, D12)

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1025 0 credits****Rigging and Regulations**

Climbing Arborists must know the legislation and regulations that pertain to their work on to the job site. The apprentice will use rigging techniques to remove large trees or portions of trees in confined locations or when surrounded by obstacles with a low impact focus, according to Industry standards and the authorities having jurisdiction. The apprentice will safely use various cutting techniques in aerial situations to remove tree parts. (Lines F5,6, A5,6)

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1026 0 credits****Climbing, Planning and Risk**

Climbing Arborists will regularly assess the work site for a variety of risks including specific ground risks, tree risks, and weather risks. Apprentices will formulate and communicate risk management plans. They will learn to select appropriate climbing equipment and inspect it for safety. (Lines A5, A6, I1,2,3,D12,G2-5)

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

**AARB 1028 0 credits****Climbing Arborist CoQ Final Exam**

Level: VO

Attributes: F2B2 (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>), SCIH (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)