

Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management

COURSE CODE	AHC31424
LOCATIONS	Portland, Colac, Sherwood Park (Warrnambool)
STUDY MODE	Part-time, On Campus
Length	Two years
Commencement	February 2026
	One day a week during school terms over two years.
Timetable	Portland: Wednesday Sherwood Park: Wednesday Colac: Thursday

Course Overview

This section gives you an introduction to what you will be learning in this course, plus course outcomes, career opportunities, and student support.

Introduction

This is the ideal qualification for those who are passionate about the environment and conservation.

This course can help give you the skills needed to perform a range of conservation and ecosystem management activities and teach you how to contribute to the preservation and maintenance of wildlife and their habitat. Discover how to identify plants, pests and animals and how to monitor and restore bushlands to support conservation projects.

What will I Learn?

During this course you will gain hands-on skills and knowledge in:

- identifying plant specimens
- collecting and propagating native seeds
- identifying and controlling weeds
- monitoring and maintaining the environment
- planning and constructing conventional fencing
- undertaking sampling and testing of water
- operating and using machinery and chemicals

Course Outcomes and Career Opportunities

This qualification may lead to roles including a national parks ranger, environment officer, landcare facilitator, bush crew officer, invasive weeds officer, land rehabilitation worker, national parks worker or revegetation worker.

Pathways

- [Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management](#)

Course Requirements

This section gives you an overview of entry requirements, course units and electives, skills recognition, and assessment criteria.

Entrance requirements & pre-requisites

In order to complete the qualification, you must be at least 16 years old to undertake certain units.

Course requirements

To be eligible for this qualification you must successfully complete 16 units: 2 core and 14 elective.

Units offered

Core Units

Unit Code	Unit Name	Unit Hours	Unit Consumables
AHCWHS302	Contribute to workplace health and safety processes	50	\$0.00
AHCECR309	Conduct an ecological and cultural site inspection prior to works	100	\$0.00

Elective Units

Unit Code	Unit Name	Unit Hours	Unit Consumables
AHCCHM304	Transport and store chemicals	50	\$0.00
AHCMOM203	Operate basic machinery and equipment	20	\$0.00
AHCPCM303	Identify plant specimens	80	\$0.00
AHCPMG301	Control weeds	70	\$0.00
AHCPMG305	Survey pests	70	\$0.00
AHCCHM307	Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases	70	\$71.65
AHCECR201	Capture digital media for fieldwork	30	\$0.00
AHCECR305	Collect native seed	40	\$0.00
AHCNSY207	Undertake propagation activities	30	\$0.00
CPPSSI2012	Assist in collecting basic spatial data	30	\$0.00
AHCINF307	Plan and construct conventional fencing	60	\$0.00
AHCLPW313	Undertake sampling and testing of water	70	\$0.00
AHCECR301	Maintain native ecosystem areas	80	\$0.00
AHCFAU302	Identify fauna in the field	50	\$0.00

Assessment

This course involves accredited units. You will be required to complete assessment tasks to demonstrate your underpinning knowledge, skills and attributes to meet the course outcomes. A combination of written, oral and practical assessment strategies will be used in either a classroom, online or workplace environment.

Where units require demonstration of skills in a workplace environment, you will have the opportunity to do this either in your own workplace (where appropriate), through a practical placement, or by using one of the Institute's simulated workshops/classrooms. Detailed information about the types, conduct and dates of assessments will be provided in advance. You will also be provided with information about the opportunity for reassessment and appeal.

Fees

This section gives you an overview of course fees, subsidies, and how they can be paid.

Course Fees

Here's an outline of fees and costs associated with your course.

Your fees each year can be made up of 3 different elements. Everyone has different circumstances that can affect what you pay and how much you pay. :

1. Tuition fees - charged as an hourly rate that varies from course to course. A large portion of the tuition is subsidised by the Victorian Government for eligible students.
2. Resource and/or materials costs - covers the cost of materials and other incidentals. This fee will vary according to the course being undertaken.
3. Booklist items - such as textbooks, equipment and stationery recommended for your course

Tuition fees

There are 4 different rates of tuition fees. Only one will apply to you (depending on your eligibility and circumstances).

1. **Government Subsidised Fee** - you could be eligible for a government-subsidised rate under the Skills First funding depending on your age, educational history, and citizenship or residency status. If you are eligible, the government will contribute to the cost of your training.
[Find out more about subsidised training](#)
2. **Government Subsidised Concession Fee** - If you are eligible for a Skills First government-subsidised place and hold a current healthcare or pension card, that you can provide at enrolment, you may be eligible for the concession rate. Note, the concession rate is not applicable to Diploma level courses.
[Find out more about concession rates](#)
3. **If the course is a Free TAFE course or part of the Free TAFE Pathways Program** - Eligible students will not pay course tuition fees for the duration of their enrolment in this course, however, there may be some consumable/material fees for the course (find out more below). Any resource or material costs, or booklist items for this course are listed in the table below.
[Find out more about Free TAFE](#)
[Find out more about Free TAFE Pathways Programs](#)
4. **Full fee** - If you are not eligible for a Skills First government-subsidised place, exemption, concession or are enrolling in a course that isn't government-subsidised, you may be required to pay the full fee rate.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FEES AND ELIGIBILITY

The fees listed below are indicative only. The course fees published are subject to change given individual circumstances at enrolment. Course fee funding is made available to eligible individuals by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. If funding is utilised, this may affect opportunities to access additional funding in the future. An accurate quote for this course will be provided during the enrolment process.

Course fees by student type	Indicative Course Fee
Government subsidised rate (if eligible)	\$3,240.00
Concession rate	\$650.00

Full fee rate (if not eligible for govt subsidy)	\$13,140.00
Additional course fees	Indicative Course Fee
Course consumable/materials (approximate)	\$248.05

How do I pay my fees?

Once we have processed your enrolment form, you will receive an email with your invoice.

You have [three options when organising your payment](#):

1. [Upfront payment](#) - can be made over the phone with EFTPOS
2. [Payment plan](#) - can be directly debited from your bank account, debited from your Centrelink payments or via a [VET Student Loan](#) (for diploma or advanced diploma courses only)
3. [Paid by employer, school or job network agency](#) - if your fees are being paid by your employer, school or job network agency, you will need to complete an Authority to Invoice form.

Payments will need to be arranged within five(5) business days of receiving the email containing your invoice.

We also offer a range of [scholarships](#) each year which you may be eligible to apply for to assist with course fees.

Next Steps

Ready to take the next step? Here you can make an enquiry, attend an information session or begin the application process.

How to apply

There are [five simple steps to apply for a course](#) with us.

1. Apply - complete a [short online application form](#). Once this form is submitted we'll send you a thank-you email.
2. Literacy and Numeracy Assessment - we will assess whether you need to undertake a Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) assessment and email it to you if required.
If you are not required to undertake this assessment, you will skip to step 3.
3. Chat to our team - your teacher or course specialist will contact you to discuss the course in more detail and ensure the right units of study are selected for you.
4. Enrol – you will be sent an email to accept your offer for the course. By accepting, you will be directed to verify your details and submit your enrolment for processing.
5. Pay - once we've completed your enrolment, we will send you an invoice to arrange [payment of your course fees](#).

If you need any assistance with applying, [contact our team](#) on 1300 648 911 or visit your nearest campus.

Careers and Course Advice

Not sure which course is right for you? South West TAFE will help you find your way.

Our Careers Coaches at the [Skills and Jobs Centre](#) is here to support you. Whether you're exploring career options, transitioning from school to the workforce or looking to study after school we're here to help you.

Student Support

As a SWTAFE student, you can access a variety of support services that will enhance your study experience and help you complete your studies successfully. For more information about any of these services, [visit our student page](#).