

Program Description

The program provides the knowledge required to produce wines of the highest quality. Students learn the science, agriculture, and business skills necessary to enhance Minnesota’s rapidly growing wine industry. Included is a foundation in chemistry and biology along with specific courses related to cultivar selection, soil preparation, cellar maintenance and marketing. The program is specifically designed to include fieldwork and laboratory practicums at local wineries.

Career Opportunities

Enologists oversee the production of wine. They inspect grapes and evaluate the crops to determine when to harvest and start wine production. They ensure proper crushing methods and techniques. Responsibilities depend on the size of the winery. The enologist is heavily involved in quality control. One may work with a laboratory technician if employed by a larger winery. Another may develop new wines or specialize in a specific wine in a larger winery.

Program Outcomes

By completing this program, students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Examine grape samples to ascertain sweetness and acidity of crop, and determine harvest time based off of this information;
- Select yeasts for fermentation and barrels for aging;
- Communicate with vineyard manager regarding crop load, harvest time, and other issues related to crop quality;
- Correct sugar and acid levels of must and wine if necessary;
- Oversee primary fermentation by punching down the grape skin cap, regulating fermentation temperature and the amount of time the skins are in contact with the must, and initiating malolactic fermentation;
- Supervise workers in crushing and pressing processes, or perform those duties themselves;
- Supervise cellar operations during secondary fermentation with tasks such as aging, topping off barrels, and clearing wine of fermentation residue;
- Direct and coordinate blending and bottling of wine, or perform those duties themselves.

Program Course Requirements

VITI 1105	Molecular Principles of Grape and Wine	4 cr
VITI 1146*	Introduction to Enology	3 cr
VITI 1148*	Winery Sanitation.....	3 cr
VITI 1160*	Winery Equipment Operation	2 cr
VITI 1110	Introduction to Wine Microorganisms.....	3 cr
VITI 1246*	Intermediate Enology – Harvest/Crush.....	2 cr
VITI 1247*	Intermediate Enology – Post Harvest.....	2 cr
VITI 1257*	Fall Wine Production Internship	3 cr
VITI 1259*	Cellar Operations Technology	2 cr
VITI 1266*	Sensory Evaluation	3 cr
VITI 1268*	Wine and Must Analysis	3 cr

Students must choose a minimum of two (2) credits from the following courses:

VITI 1111	Introduction to Viticulture and Vineyard Establishment	3 cr
VITI 1147*	Introduction to Fruit Wine Production.....	2 cr
VITI 1211	Integrated Pest Management	2 cr
VITI 1293	Soils for Viticulture	3 cr

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT – 32 CREDITS

**Denotes Prerequisites*

Transfer Opportunities

Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance (VESTA) is a consortium of colleges, including Central Lakes College, Northeast Iowa Community College, Missouri State University, Rend Lake (Ill.) Community College, and Redlands (Okla) Community College. See an advisor for further information about completing a bachelor’s degree.

Semester Course Requirements

Semester One (12 credits)

VITI 1105	Molecular Principals of Grape & Wine	4 cr
VITI 1110	Introduction to Wine Microorganisms	3 cr
VITI 1146*	Introduction to Enology.....	3 cr
	Elective	2 cr

Semester Two (17 credits)

VITI 1148*	Winery Sanitation	3 cr
VITI 1160*	Winery Equipment Operation	2 cr
VITI 1246*	Intermediate Enology – Harvest/Crush	2 cr
VITI 1247*	Intermediate Enology – Post Harvest	2 cr
VITI 1259*	Cellar Operations Technology	2 cr
VITI 1266*	Sensory Evaluation	3 cr
VITI 1268*	Wine and Must Analysis	3 cr

Semester Three (3 credits)

VITI 1257*	Fall Wine Production Internship.....	3 cr
------------	--------------------------------------	------

Course Prerequisites

Some courses may require appropriate test scores or completion of basic math, basic English and/or reading courses with a “C” or better. CLC utilizes a multiple measure approach for placement which may include high school MCA, SAT, ACT scores in addition to high school GPAs. For insurance purposes, internships may require that students be 18 years old.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must meet the following conditions in order to graduate:

1. College Cumulative GPA Requirement: cumulative grade point average (GPA) of credits attempted and completed at CLC must be at least 2.0;
2. College Technical Core GPA Requirement: cumulative GPA of credits attempted and completed towards the technical core of the diploma or degree must be at least 2.0;
3. Residency Requirement: students must complete 25% of their credits at Central Lakes College.