

Natural Resources Conservation Services

Certificate (C263)

Required Courses

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| NATR 1160 | NRCS Forestry | 1 cr |
| NATR 1161 | NRCS Farmstead | 1 cr |
| NATR 1162 | NRCS Pasture/Cropland | 1 cr |
| NATR 1200 | Introduction to Natural Resources | 3 cr |
| NATR 2155 | Soil Science | 3 cr |

*Denotes Prerequisites

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT - 9 CREDITS

Description

The CLC Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Conservation Practices certificate program provides Natural Resources Technology students with additional experience applying conservation practices in agricultural settings. The curriculum includes site visits to forests, pasture lands, cropping systems, and farmsteads where NRCS conservation practices have been implemented and overview of the issues they have addressed. Successful completion of the certificate, with the Natural Resources Technology A.A.S. degree will qualify graduates for direct entry into NRCS positions.

Outcomes

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

- Interpret how ecological relationships that are influenced by agricultural practices and identify appropriate conservation practices to mitigate their impacts;
- Analyze data from existing conservation plans, determine their effectiveness and identify modification to improve their performance if warranted;
- Communicate in oral and written forms with agricultural producers, supervisors, peers, and natural resource agencies; and
- Navigate and safely function in an outdoor workplace.

Pre-Program Requirements

Some courses may require students to meet College Placement Levels in reading, writing, and/or math. See an advisor for more information.

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:

- College Cumulative GPA Requirement: cumulative grade point average (GPA) of credits attempted and completed at CLC must be at least 2.0;
- 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;
- Residency Requirement: students must complete 25% of their credits at Central Lakes College.

Career & Transfer

Entry-level positions with the NRCS include Soil Conservation Technician and Soil Conservationist. These positions involve working with agricultural producers to assess site and operations and develop, implement, monitor, and revise conservation plans to address resource issues. The NRCS is a Federal program that provides employment opportunities nationally and advancement within the agency.