

UTILITY ARBORIST

Occupation Description

“Utility Arborist” means a person who undertakes any work required to prune or clear vegetation in proximity* to energized electrical equipment, structures and conductors or who in the course of utility line clearing operations, prunes, falls or removes trees which could come into contact with energized power lines.

**Proximity is defined as a distance of three meters or less from a primary conductor with a voltage of 750 volts or greater.*

For detailed information on the scope of knowledge and skills taught and assessed in this program refer to the Program Outline, available on the SkilledTradesBC website.

Pathways to Certification

In BC, an individual can become certified as an Utility Arborist by completing the Utility Arborist program or by challenging the certification. Apprenticeship programs are for individuals who have an employer to sponsor them and challenge programs are for individuals who have extensive experience working in the occupation and wish to challenge the certification.

Youth can begin an apprenticeship in high school through the Youth Train in Trades or Youth Work in Trades programs. The Youth Work in Trades program is available for any trade if an employer is willing to sponsor the student. Trades offered through the Youth Train in Trades vary by region; contact your local school district to find out which technical training programs are being offered through the Youth Train in Trades program in your region.

Recommended Education

The following education is recommended for apprentices entering this occupation. These are not prerequisites, but rather a desired level of skill or knowledge that will contribute to success in the industry.

- Grade 10 or equivalent including English 10, Math 10, and Science 10
- Preferred: Grade 12

SkilledTradesBC Registration

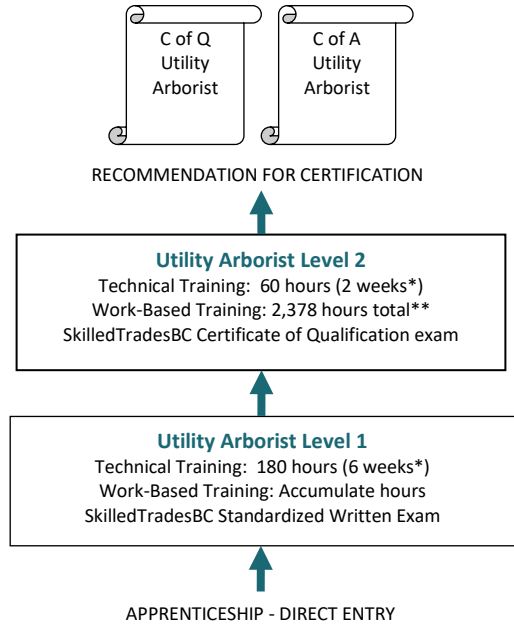
Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in this program must register with SkilledTradesBC along with their sponsors. Application forms for all programs are available from the SkilledTradesBC website. Online registration is also available for most programs through the SkilledTradesBC website.

Those who wish to challenge the Utility Arborist certification must complete the Utility Arborist Challenge Application and submit it to SkilledTradesBC. Challenge applications are assessed for proof of workplace hours and scope of experience prior to acceptance of the individual into the Challenge pathway.

Apprenticeship Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Utility Arborist apprenticeship pathway.

*C of Q = Certificate of Qualification
C of A = Certificate of Apprenticeship*



**Suggested duration based on 30-hour week*

*** A minimum of 1,200 WBT hours must be in proximity to energized power lines; proximity is defined as a distance of three metres or less from a primary conductor with a voltage of 750 volts or greater
NOTE: Employer must complete and submit Proximity Verification Form (form available on SkilledTradesBC website) with RFC*

CROSS-PROGRAM CREDITS

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit towards the completion requirements of this program:

None

Apprenticeship Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

- Utility Arborist – Certificate of Qualification
- Utility Arborist – Certificate of Apprenticeship

**SkilledTradesBC
Registration Prerequisites**

- Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice

Completion Requirements Certification as an Utility Arborist is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement	Level of Achievement Required
Technical Training	Minimum 70% in each level of technical training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Level 1: 180 hours (or 6 weeks*) and SkilledTradesBC standardized written exam ▪ Level 2: 60 hours (or 2 weeks*)
SkilledTradesBC Certificate of Qualification Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 70%
Work-Based Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2,378 hours ▪ A minimum of 1,200 hours must be in proximity to energized power lines; proximity is defined as a distance of three metres or less from a primary conductor with a voltage of 750 volts or greater
Recommendation for Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority ▪ Sponsors must complete and sign a Work-Based Training Proximity Verification Declaration

*(*Assuming 30 hours in school per week)*

Program Duration

Duration varies depending on how training is delivered and the time needed to attain the required practical competencies, but the program generally takes 2 years to complete.

The technical training requirement is typically met through block-release training (full-time, at school) delivered by a SkilledTradesBC-approved training provider. It can also be met through approved alternative training models (e.g., distance education, online, part-time) and/or level challenge where these options are available.

Sign-off Authority

Credentials eligible to sign-off on the Recommendation for Certification:

- Utility Arborist – Certificate of Qualification

Challenging a Level

The following levels of technical training can be challenged for advanced placement in this program:

Level	Prerequisites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Level 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A

Cross-Program Credits

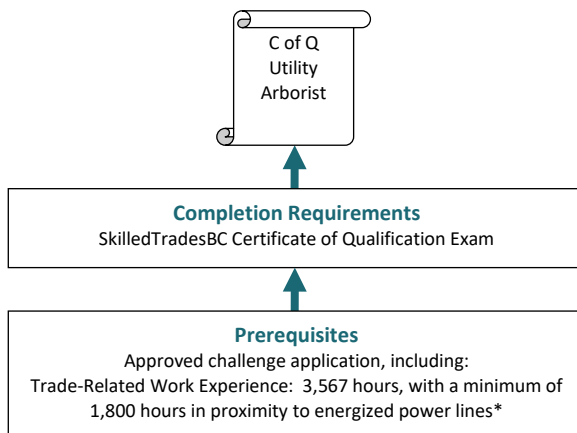
Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program:

Credential	Credit(s) Granted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A

Challenge Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Utility Arborist challenge pathway.

C of Q = Certificate of Qualification



** Proximity is defined as a distance of three metres or less from a primary conductor with a voltage of 750 volts or greater*

NOTE: Only applicants with credentials from outside of British Columbia will be accepted to undertake the challenge process. Only certified Utility Arborists and Utility Arborist apprentices are permitted to perform tree pruning or falling work in proximity to energized power lines in British Columbia.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met or partially met the prerequisites for challenging this program

Tree Climber/Trimmer Certification issued by the Western Utility Arborist Association (WUAA)	Work Experience: 3,567 hours
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Challenge Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

Utility Arborist – Certificate of Qualification

SkilledTradesBC Registration Prerequisites

- An approved Challenge Application, which includes:
- 3,567 documented hours of directly related experience working in the occupation
 - A minimum of 1,800 hours must be in proximity to energized power lines; proximity is defined as a distance of three metres or less from a primary conductor with a voltage of 750 volts or greater

Credit for Prior Learning

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met, or partially met, the prerequisites for challenging this program:

Credential	Credit(s) Granted
Tree Climber/Trimmer Certification issued by the Western Utility Arborist Association (WUAA)	▪ 3,567 workplace hours

Completion Requirements

Certification as an Utility Arborist is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement	Level of Achievement Required
SkilledTradesBC Certificate of Qualification Exam	▪ Minimum 70%

Supporting Documents

Utility Arborist Program Outline (2013) - Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills required to competently perform the occupation in BC. Available from the SkilledTradesBC website.

Contacts

SkilledTradesBC manages B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship programs. Contact SkilledTradesBC Customer Service if you have any questions regarding registration, examinations or certification for this program.

Telephone: 778-328-8700 Fax: 778-328-8701
Toll Free (within BC): 1-866-660-6011 email: customerservice@skilledtradesbc.ca
Website: www.skilledtradesbc.ca

Revision History

The standards for this program were reviewed and/or updated on the dates below.

Program Standards Approved: March 2002
Updated: January 2006
February 2012
February 2013
April 2013

Program Profiles are updated regularly. Visit www.skilledtradesbc.ca for the most current version.