

## **UTILITY ARBORIST**

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### **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 ITA 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 apprenticeship in high school through either the Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) program or the ACE IT program. The SSA program is available for any trade if an employer is willing to sponsor the student. Trades offered through ACE IT vary by region; contact your local school district to find out which technical training programs are being offered through ACE IT 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

### **ITA Registration**

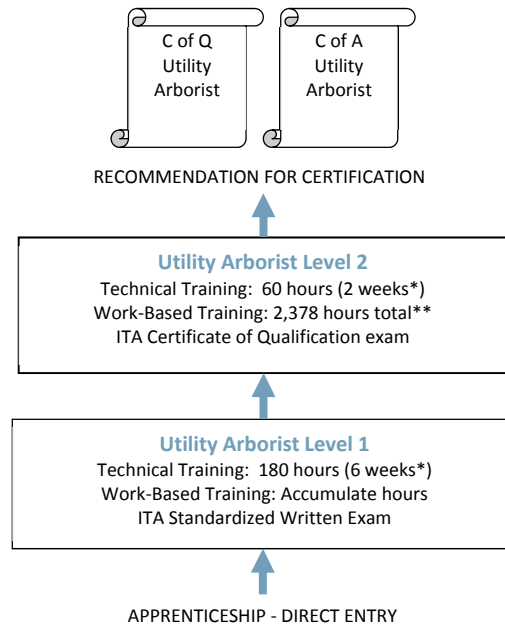
Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in this program must register with ITA along with their sponsors. Application forms for all programs are available from the ITA website. Online registration is also available for most programs through the ITA website.

Those who wish to challenge the Utility Arborist certification must complete the Utility Arborist Challenge Application and submit it to ITA. 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 ITA website) with RFC*

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**CROSS-PROGRAM CREDITS**

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

*None*



**INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM PROFILE  
RECOGNIZED PROGRAM**

**Apprenticeship Program Standards**

<b>Credentials Awarded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Utility Arborist – Certificate of Qualification</li> <li>▪ Utility Arborist – Certificate of Apprenticeship</li> </ul>
<b>ITA Registration Prerequisites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice</li> </ul>

<b>Completion Requirements</b>	Certification as an Utility Arborist is awarded upon successful completion of:	
	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Level of Achievement Required</b>
	Technical Training	Minimum 70% in each level of technical training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Level 1: 180 hours (or 6 weeks*) and ITA standardized written exam</li> <li>▪ Level 2: 60 hours (or 2 weeks*)</li> </ul>
	ITA Certificate of Qualification Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 70%</li> </ul>
	Work-Based Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2,378 hours</li> <li>▪ 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</li> </ul>
	Recommendation for Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority</li> </ul> Sponsors must complete and sign a Work-Based Training Proximity Verification Declaration – the form can be found on ITA’s website ( <a href="http://www.itabc.ca">www.itabc.ca</a> )

(\*Assuming 30 hours in school per week)

<b>Program Duration</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>The technical training requirement is typically met through block-release training (full-time, at school) delivered by an ITA-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.</p>
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<b>Sign-off Authority</b>	<p>Credentials eligible to sign-off on the Recommendation for Certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Utility Arborist – Certificate of Qualification</li> </ul>
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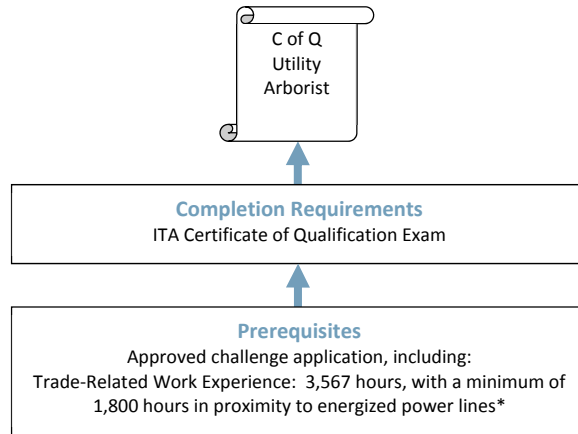
<b>Challenging a Level</b>	The following levels of technical training can be challenged for advanced placement in this program:	
	<b>Level</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Level 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ N/A</li> </ul>

<b>Cross-Program Credits</b>	Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program:	
	<b>Credential</b>	<b>Credit(s) Granted</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ N/A</li> </ul>

### 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

<b>Credentials Awarded</b>	Utility Arborist – Certificate of Qualification				
<b>ITA Registration Prerequisites</b>	An approved Challenge Application, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3,567 documented hours of directly related experience working in the occupation</li> <li>▪ 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</li> </ul>				
<b>Credit for Prior Learning</b>	Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met, or partially met, the prerequisites for challenging this program: <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: left;"><b>Credential</b></th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: left;"><b>Credit(s) Granted</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Tree Climber/Trimmer Certification issued by the Western Utility Arborist Association (WUAA)</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3,567 workplace hours</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Credential</b>	<b>Credit(s) Granted</b>	Tree Climber/Trimmer Certification issued by the Western Utility Arborist Association (WUAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3,567 workplace hours</li> </ul>
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## INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM PROFILE RECOGNIZED PROGRAM

### 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 ITA website.

### Contacts

The **Industry Training Authority** (ITA) manages B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship programs. Contact ITA Customer Service if you have any questions regarding registration, examinations or certification for this program.

Telephone: 778-328-8700  
Toll Free (within BC): 1-866-660-6011  
Website: [www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca)

Fax: 778-328-8701  
email: [customerservice@itabc.ca](mailto:customerservice@itabc.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.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca) for the most current version.