

AHC32822 Certificate III in Rural Operations

DESCRIPTION

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for general job roles in agriculture, conservation land management and other related rural industries.

Depending on the units selected individuals can be employed not only in the agriculture industry but also other rural and regional sectors, and community organisations.

Job roles and titles vary across different industry sectors and may include:

- Machinery operator
- Vegetable/orchard worker
- Station hand
- Animal care worker
- Pastoral worker
- Animal attendant/stock person
- Rural services.

Individuals with this qualification perform tasks under broad supervision involving a broad range of skills that are applied in a variety of contexts, which will involve discretion and judgement in selecting and operating equipment, coordinating resources and applying contingency measures during work.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this qualification at the time of publication.

ELIGIBILITY/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy (LLND) evaluation helps identify any areas where you may need additional support to help you achieve your goals.

To gain entry into AHC32822 Certificate III in Rural Operations, candidates are required to:

- be physically fit, active, and able to function effectively in a tropical environment, as this is a physically demanding course.
- have a work contract with an approved employer to undertake a traineeship.

DELIVERY DETAILS

Location(s)	Katherine, Remote
Duration*	1-2 years / Mustering Seasons
Study mode ^^	On location
Dates ^	A specific commencement date will be determined in consultation with the delivery team.
Attendance ^	Attendance is by arrangement with the delivery team

* Duration may vary depending on how long a student takes to reach the required competency level.

^ Course timetable will be provided on application for the course.

^^ Information relating to study modes can be found in the 2026 TAFE Student Guide

FEES

Fee Type	2026 Course Fees
NT Government Supported*	\$2,425.50 - \$5,043.50
Full Fee	\$8,347.50 - \$17,357.50

*This course is supported by the NT Government for domestic eligible students who are NT residents. A limited number of NT Government supported places are available, so secure your place now.

Fees shown are indicative and subject to change annually. Actual course fees may vary depending on the units chosen. For International non-student visa-holders; study eligibility needs to be verified before enrolment. Fees may vary depending on the visa type. The course fee rates will vary for commercial contract arrangements.

For further clarification and information on fees, fee exemptions, payment options, instalment plans, and refunds, contact CDU on 1800 061 963 or refer to [TAFE Fees and Payments](#)

ASSESSMENT

Skills and knowledge assessments are an essential step in progressing through your course. You may be assessed in a number of ways including written assessment, questioning, portfolios, work samples, direct observation, practical assessments and third-party feedback.

Throughout your course you will receive information about assessments including how, when and where assessments will be conducted.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

RPL is a process that determines whether the skills, knowledge and experience you've gained through your previous study, work or life experience can count towards a vocational training qualification at CDU. For more information, [VET RPL](#).

CREDIT TRANSFER (CT)

Charles Darwin University as a Registered Training Organisation recognises the Australian Qualifications Framework qualifications and Statement of Attainments issued by any other Australian Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Students are encouraged to submit any requests for credit from previous studies at the time of enrolment, to ensure they are not enrolling in units they may not need to undertake.

RESOURCES

Students are issued with learning materials and handouts relevant for the units but are required to provide some of their own protective clothing for working outdoors, i.e. hat, sunglasses, appropriate footwear, long trousers, and long sleeve shirt.

STUDY AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Further training pathways from this qualification include but are not limited to:

- AHC40122 - Certificate IV in Agriculture
- AHC40422 - Certificate IV in Horticulture (Not currently available at CDU)

Possible occupations relevant to this qualification include:

- Machinery operator
- Station hand
- Pastoral worker
- Rural services
- Vegetable/orchard worker
- Animal care worker
- Animal attendant/stockperson

QUALIFICATION CONTENT

To achieve AHC32822 Certificate III in Rural Operations, a total of sixteen (16) units of competency must be completed comprising three (3) core and thirteen (13) elective units as detailed in the packaging rules and listed below. The electives offered may vary between campuses.

CORE UNITS

AHCBIO303	Apply biosecurity measures
AHCWHS302	Contribute to workplace health and safety processes
AHCWRK320	Apply environmentally sustainable work practices

ELECTIVE UNITS

To achieve the full qualification, students must select 13 units from the following elective units. Unnamed electives are limited to 7 of the 13 chosen.

Horse Group	
ACMEQU212	Handle horses safely (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
ACMEQU214	Prepare to work safely around horses (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
ACMEQU217*	Load and unload horses (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
ACMEQU218*	Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCLSK236	Handle horses safely for stock work (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCLSK235*	Ride educated horses to carry out basic stock work (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCLSK372*	Train, care for and ride horses for stock work (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
Cattle Group	
AHCLSK344	Administer medication to livestock
AHCLSK347	Maintain livestock water supplies
AHCLSK350	Identify and draft livestock
AHCLSK351	Implement animal health control programs
AHCLSK353	Implement feeding plans for livestock
AHCLSK359	Coordinate and monitor livestock transport (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCLSK364	Castrate livestock
AHCLSK368	Comply with industry animal welfare requirements
AHCWRK317	Coordinate work site activities
AHCWRK318	Comply with industry quality assurance requirements
AHCWRK323	Operate in isolated and remote situations
PUATEA001	Work in a team
Other Units	

AHCCHM304	Transport and store chemicals
AHCCHM307	Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases
AHCINF206	Install, maintain and repair farm fencing (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCLSK229	Provide feed for livestock
AHCLSK349	Euthanase livestock
AHCLSK355	Prepare livestock for competition
AHCLSK356	Plan to exhibit livestock (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCLSK358	Slaughter livestock (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCLSK424	Implement and monitor animal welfare programs (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCMOM201	Operate two-wheel motorbikes (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCMOM205	Operate vehicles (<i>unnamed elective</i>)
AHCMOM216	Operate side by side utility vehicles (<i>unnamed elective</i>)

Units marked with * have Prerequisite unit requirements as listed in the table below:

Unit of Competency	Prerequisite unit requirements
ACMEQU217 Load and unload horses	ACMEQU212 Handle horses safely
ACMEQU218 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter	ACMEQU212 Handle horses safely
AHCLSK235 Ride educated horses to carry out basic stock work	AHCLSK236 Handle horses safely for stock work
AHCLSK372 Train, care for and ride horses for stock work	AHCLSK235 Ride educated horses to carry out basic stock work* AHCLSK236 Handle horses safely for stock work

WITHDRAWING FROM A QUALIFICATION

You may withdraw from this qualification and receive, where relevant, a Statement of Attainment for all units of competency you have successfully completed.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The University provides support for students in many areas, including Accommodation, Careers and Employability, Counselling, Disability Services, Financial Support Services, Student Advocacy, Indigenous Tutorial Support Services, International Student Support Services, Library Services, and VET Learner Support Services.

More information is available at [Student Support - Life, Health and Wellbeing](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

Agriculture and Rural Operations

E: vet.agriculture@cdu.edu.au

T: 08 8973 8311

W: <https://www.cdu.edu.au/tafe>

For further information regarding student life at CDU, please refer to <https://www.cdu.edu.au/study/student-life>.