

COURSE DETAILS

PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL COMPETENCY FOR TRAINING MEMBERS



Welcome to the AIA's Training Member Course in Professional Ethical Competency. These Course Details tell you everything you need to know.

Cost	1
Instructors	1
Method of Delivery	1
Time Requirements	1
Assessment	1
Certificate of Completion	4
Course Content	5
Copyright	7

COST

The cost of the course is \$1000.00. The cost breakdown is as follows:

- Course fee \$100.00 (GST exempt)
- Exam fee \$900.00 (GST exempt, tax deductible)

INSTRUCTORS

The course is co-taught by two instructors:

- Cassandra Haraba, B.A., M.A., LL.B., Director, Regulatory Governance, Alberta Institute of Agrolologists
charaba@aia.ab.ca
780-435-0606, ext 18
- Richard Dixon, MBA, M.Div., Executive Director, Regulatory and Strategic Affairs Centre (RASAC)
Richard@rasac.ca
780-437-9753

The instructors will respond to students' posts and engage in the discussion during each module to provide guidance and direction. In addition, they are available throughout the course to answer questions and clarify concepts.

METHOD OF DELIVERY

This course is fully online, delivered through the Brightspace platform.

It is asynchronous (no scheduled classes), but paced. You do the work on your own time but follow the weekly schedule for readings and assignments.

TIME REQUIREMENTS

The course takes 6 weeks, no less. There are 6 modules, one per week. Each lesson takes approximately 4 hours. The course includes at least 24 instructional hours.

There is also a 1-hour, 50-question multiple-choice final exam. You are allowed two attempts. An extra five days are allotted to writing the final exam.

ASSESSMENT

To pass the course, you must

1. complete all discussion posts (4 per week) and the final exam and
2. receive at least 75% on each post and the exam.

Discussion Posts

Even though there are no scheduled classes, the course is paced each week in accordance with the following schedule. It's important to stick to the schedule. The discussion-based format let you learn from your peers as well as from your instructors.

If you're copying and pasting a draft post from a Word document, apply the Paragraph function after you've pasted your post into the discussion forum.

Each week, read the module and lesson materials, then complete three discussion posts.

Monday – Post 1 (minimum 300 words; no maximum)

- Answer the question posed in the module.
- You must post your own answer before you will be able to see others' answers.

Wednesday – Post 2 (minimum 200 words; no maximum)

- Respond to one other student's answer to the module question.
- In your response, expand on the discussion underway.

Thursday – Post 3 (minimum 300 words; no maximum)

- Answer a question posed by the instructor in relation to the ongoing discussion.
- You must post your own answer before you will be able to see others' answers.

Friday through Sunday – Post 4 (minimum 200 words; no maximum)




- Respond to one other student's answer to the instructor question.
- In your response, expand on the discussion underway.

Discussion posts will be assessed for evidence of learning the concepts in the course materials.

Maintain academic integrity (craft your answer carefully; cite sources to support your reasoning).

Promptly revise your post in response to instructor comments, if necessary.

Here is the rubric for discussion posts.

<p>Did not participate</p> <p>0 %</p>	<p>Unacceptable</p> <p>50 % </p>	<p>Acceptable</p> <p>75 % </p>	<p>Excellent</p> <p>100 % </p>
<p>Did not complete any posts.</p>	<p>Did not complete all posts.</p> <p>Completed all posts but included incorrect information about facts or law and did not correct the information when the instructor pointed out the error.</p> <p>Did not incorporate new material the instructors presented for clarity during discussions.</p>	<p>Completed all posts.</p> <p>Included correct information about facts and law.</p> <p>Included incorrect information about facts and law but corrected it when the instructor pointed it out.</p> <p>Did not incorporate new material the instructors presented for clarity during discussions.</p>	<p>Completed all posts.</p> <p>Included correct information about facts and law.</p> <p>Included incorrect information about facts and law but corrected it when the instructor pointed it out.</p> <p>Incorporated new material the instructors presented for clarity during discussions.</p>

Final Exam

The final exam consists of 50 multiple-choice questions.

You may take the final exam after you have completed all required posts.

You must complete the final exam no later than 11:59 p.m. MT the Wednesday after the course closes.

You will have one hour (60 minutes) to complete it.

The exam is open book. It is not invigilated.

You are given two attempts to achieve the pass mark of 75%.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

You will receive a certificate of completion when you've passed the course (completed all posts and the exam with at least 75% in each).

Before you can be registered as a Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Registered Technologist in Agrology (RT[Ag]), you must upload your certificate to your AIA member portal.

To upload:

- Go to your Compliance Center on the AIA website.
- Under "Educational Institution" indicate "AIA" and select "a Canadian educational institution" and "No Diploma/Degree Awarded".
- Under "Major", enter the course name. Select the completion date.

Education Institution *

Other Education Institution

This record describes education received at a Canadian education institution
 an international education institution

If you select "an international education institution" above, you can upload your "WES/IQAS" assessment on your application portal.

Academic Type * Diploma
 Degree
 Applied Degree
 No Diploma/Degree Awarded

Level of Degree

Major (if applicable)

Date Awarded (if applicable)

If you do not have these document(s), click "Next" and provide them when you receive them

Transcripts

COURSE CONTENT

Weekly schedule

Lesson 1 – History and Mystery of Agrology as a Self-Regulated Profession

Lesson 2 – The Law and the Public Interest

Lesson 3 – Tools of Ethics

Lesson 4 - Practice Standards

Lesson 5 – Continuing Competence Program

Lesson 6 – Professional Ethical Competency

Final exam by 11:59 p.m. the following Wednesday (Week 7).

Course Objectives

Students learn the roles and responsibilities of regulated members of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists through the lens of Professional Ethical Competency, a construct derived from Eriksson, Helgesson, & Höglund (2007) and GK Today (<https://www.gktoday.in>) in which the professional is committed to rationally applying specialized knowledge as circumstances arise.

Professional Ethical Competency comprises knowing (laws, regulations, rules, and codes), being (competent and committed to high standards of personal and professional conduct), and doing (choosing rational action based on critical reflection and reasoning).

Artificial Intelligence Simulation

From weeks 3 to 6, students engage with artificial-intelligence characters through a third-party experiential learning platform. The simulation exposes students to an ethical dilemma common to professional work environments relating to pressures to breach ethical standards. It provides students with an immediate, real-world opportunity to apply the tools of professional ethical competency.

Module learning outcomes

- **Introduction: The Definition of Professional Ethical Competency**
Students learn a definition on which they rely throughout the course.
- **Lesson 1 – History and Mystery of Agrology as a Self-Regulated Profession**
Students learn about self-regulation and the way in which the agrology profession received the privilege to self-regulate, while demystifying some of the confusing concepts in self-regulation. Students learn the meaning of “self-regulated profession”, how agrology became a self-regulated profession, and how to think about some

confusing concepts, such as self-regulation, regulator versus regulated, elected councils, the public interest, and the social contract.

- **Lesson 2 – The Law and the Public Interest**

Students learn about the law of self-regulated professions and how the law defines the public interest, why professions are regulated, where agrology fits in among other regulated professions, how the Legislature creates a regulated profession, and who's who in the regulated profession of agrology, with emphasis on the AIA council. Students closely examine agrology's legal enactments and learn how the Institute administers them to serve and protect the public interest.

- **Lesson 3 – The Tools of Ethics**

Students examine the tools by which Professional Ethical Competency is constructed and learn that a major difference between an expert and a professional is an enforceable Code of Ethics that should be relevant, comprehensive, clear, endorsed, reviewable, and enforceable. Students prepare to practice making ethical decisions through a number of frameworks: Teleological, or consequential; deontological, or rule-based; Virtue Ethics, which emphasizes the character or identity of the professional, and models, including Nash and Pagano. The artificial intelligence simulation begins after this module.

- **Lesson 4 – Practice Standards**

Students learn about the Institute's practice standards and how they relate to the Training Program and registration as a PAg or RT(Ag), and about practice permit conditions and how they relate to unprofessional conduct.

- **Lesson 5 – Continuing Competence Program**

Students learn about the relationship between the Institute's Continuing Competence Program and practice standards, practice reviews, practice permit conditions, and unprofessional conduct.

- **Lesson 6 – Professional Ethical Competency**

In this capstone module, students revisit the definition of Professional Ethical Competency. They synthesize their experiences in the artificial intelligence simulation to give meaning to “knowing”, “being”, and “doing”.

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