

University of Montana

<http://www.umt.edu/sell/programs/bee/default.php>

UM's Online Beekeeping Certificate program consists of three university level courses at the apprentice, journeyman and master levels, culminating in a certificate designating the participant as a "Master Beekeeper."

Although each of the courses is only a few weeks in length, the full program takes three years to complete. It is structured to give participants a full year of experience between courses.

The program begins with the basics of handling honey bees, takes students through diagnosing pests and diseases, managing hives for optimal honey bee health, as well as honey production and marketing, and concludes with the business of beekeeping.

The courses meet online with instructors guiding the lessons, participating in discussions, and being available to answer questions. They have traditionally been noncredit with a certificate of completion, but students have the option of taking the courses for academic credit through the University of Montana. In either option, students must be aware these are rigorous courses that require participation in discussion forums and completion of assignments and quizzes.

Both hobbyist and commercial beekeepers have taken our courses. To gain the most benefit from the program, students should have entry-level experience with handling bees, an appreciation of the contribution bees provide to our food crops, an awareness of current honey bee health issues that impact bee populations, and be committed to honey bee vitality.

Students should have or be willing to acquire textbooks, basic beekeeping clothing and equipment. A microscope is required for the Journeyman and Master Level courses. Test Fee is \$60.

Our Apprentice course is the foundation for all other courses. Experienced beekeepers may begin at a higher level (Journeyman Level or Natural Beekeeping) if they pass UM's Apprentice Level course final exams. To test out of the Apprentice course, participants must achieve an average score of 80% or higher across both online exams, which have been designed to determine Apprentice-Level proficiency.

Participants have only one attempt to pass the timed exams. Exams are graded within 10 business days, and participants will be notified of their final score by email. If you receive a passing score, you may register for the next available course (Journeyman Level or Natural Beekeeping) by visiting the program website. If a course is not currently available, you will be notified of future offerings via email.