

Applied Sustainable Ranching

Admission Information

Program Description

The Applied Sustainable Ranching program is the first of its kind in British Columbia.

During this program, students will gain the expertise to build and sustain ranching enterprises within BC's ranching industry and apply that knowledge to agricultural businesses in any region.

What to Expect

- Participate in real-life ranching operations in BC
- Gain employment-ready experience
- Understand how ranch and rangeland ecosystems react to management decisions
- Understand livestock needs and how to best manage the natural environment to produce nutritious proteins to feed the world
- Learn to design ranching enterprises that fit the environment and resources while providing a return on investment
- Experience a program that is built in BC to address the needs of the local ranching environment
- Learn to develop and fine-tune enterprise management around the unique market opportunities in your region

Students are not required to live in Williams Lake to take this program. Due to the flexible blended learning model, students living and working on any ranch in BC or internationally are able to enroll in the program without having to move away from home. Students may attend the weekly seminars in person or via video conference.

Intake Date Ongoing, students may enter the program at the beginning of any new course

Admission Requirements

- Grade 12 (or equivalent) or Mature Student Status

Additional Requirements

- A good working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel
- Access to a reliable Internet source
- A suitable work placement on a working ranch
- Two reference letters

Admission of Mature Students

Any applicant at least 19 years of age with a minimum two years out of school lacking requirements for a program or course will be considered for mature student status.

Although the grade level requirement will be waived for students classified as mature, individual course prerequisites listed for the program or course being applied for must be met.

Costs (per year)

Tuition \$5,500 approx.

Books \$700 approx.

How to Apply

1. Apply online at tru.ca/williamslake/registration or submit your application via email to wlmmain@tru.ca or use the paper application form at tru.ca/campus/admissions/apply

2. Pay the \$28.68 application fee Please call or visit the campus to pay your application fee. Your application is not processed until this fee is received
3. Submit official high school transcripts
4. Provide official transcripts for any post-secondary institutions previously or currently attended

Current high school students please submit final Grade 11 grades and an interim Grade 12 transcript listing courses you are taking this year. For further details, please see your high school counsellor. All official high school and post-secondary transcripts can be mailed to

Thompson Rivers University
Williams Lake Campus
1250 Western Avenue
Williams Lake, BC V2G 1H7

BC students should visit www.bced.gov.bc.ca to arrange for their final BC Ministry of Education transcript to be forwarded electronically to TRU.

Next Steps

1. You will be contacted within 2 – 3 weeks to confirm we have received your application
2. Use the checklist in this package to make sure you have included all supporting documents required
3. Once Admissions has reviewed your application and applicable supporting documents, they will notify you about the admission decision
4. Students who are admitted will be required to pay a commitment fee of \$500 prior to registration in courses

Need Advising?

For assistance in developing an academic plan to meet the Ranching admission requirements, contact our TRU Academic Advising Office, 250-392-8000 or wlmain@tru.ca.

Support Services

Information regarding various TRU support services, including disability services, services for Aboriginal students, counselling, sponsorship and student housing can be found at tru.ca/williamslake/student-services. For assistance with financial planning and program cost details use the Program Cost Calculator or contact the TRU Student Awards and Financial Support at finaid@tru.ca or 250-828-5024 or tru.ca/awards

Re-application

If you were not accepted, or applied but did not attend last year, you must submit a NEW application and contact the Admissions Office to ensure all required documentation is still on file and complete.

Program Application Admissions Checklist

Please check off and include all the following

- Application form
- Application fee \$28.68
- Official high school transcript
- Any post-secondary transcripts
- Two reference letters

Need Help? Contact Us

TRU Admissions

Tel: 250-392-8020

Fax: 250-392-4984

Thompson Rivers University

1250 Western Avenue

Williams Lake, BC V2G 1H7

tru.ca/ranching

Ranching Program Coordinator

Gillian Watt

Tel: 250-319-2367

gwatt@tru.ca

Applied Sustainable Ranching

Course Descriptions

ASUR 1010 Residency Week (January)

- Introduction to Moodle learning management system
- Farm and ranch safety
- Three days of ranch tours across the region to look at a variety of enterprises, business strategies and stewardship issues

ASUR 1020 Business Enterprise (February – April)

- Building a business strategy
- Enterprise costing
- Financing your business
- Marketing and logistics
- Human resources
- Succession planning
- Land resources, BC and Aboriginal governance
- Communications, conflict resolution and conflict management

ASUR 1030 Environmentally Sustainable Ranching (May – July)

- Soil health
- Biodiversity and plant needs
- Grazing management
- Watershed and riparian systems
- Wildlife interactions and predators
- Invasive species
- Urban agriculture interface
- Medicinal plants, traditional use sites and archeological factors

ASUR 1040 Hands on Skills and Diversification (August – October)

- Humane animal care standards and market relevance
- Designing fences and handling systems, flight zones and moving
- Horsemanship
- Basic dog handling
- Equipment maintenance
- Fencing
- Key success factors, production and revenue benchmarks for
 - Sheep, poultry, pork purebred livestock
 - Greenhouse, vegetables and fruit
 - Berries, landscape horticulture and apiaries
 - On-farm processing, value added farm store and agri-tourism

ASUR 2010 Beef Production (November – December)

- Nutrition through the life cycle
- Herd health
- Parasitology and pasture management
- Genetics and designing a breeding program
- Finishing, processing and lean meat yield

- Marketing plan, product costing and pricing

ASUR 2020 Sheep Production (January – February)

- Nutrition through the life cycle
- Flock health
- Parasitology and pasture management
- Genetics and designing a breeding program
- Finishing, processing and lean meat yield
- Marketing plan, product costing and pricing

ASUR 2030 Winter Forage Production (February – March)

- Considerations on production versus purchasing and methods to extend grazing season
- Equipment requirements to match your needs
- Choosing your seed mix and best practices
- Cultivation, seeding and fertilization
- Harvesting and storage
- Marketing plan, product costing and pricing

ASUR 2040 Agri and Soft Adventure Tourism (April – May)

- Introduction to tourism
- Cultural communications
- Experience creation and product development
- Information technology in tourism
- Tourism strategy under varying conditions
- Applied project

ASUR 2050 Final Business (May – June)

Completion of a business plan and five-year financial plan for the entire operation designed under this program, using existing or virtual ranch/farm lands. This will include

- Business strategy
- Human resources plan
- Environmental and range use plan
- For each enterprise: operations, marketing and financial plan
- Overall financial projections and statements for three years