

Accreditation Course General Information



This **30-hour, 4-day course** for land care professionals and environmental educators offers a well-rounded curriculum which will cover organic land care principles, practices, design and maintenance.

By the end of the course, attendees will be able to incorporate land care methods and materials that respect natural ecology and the long-term health of the environment into their businesses or educational programs.

The curriculum is based on NOFA's [Standards for Land Care: Practices for Design and Maintenance of Ecological Landscapes](#). These Standards, first published in 2001 and revised semi-annually, extend the vision and practices of organic agriculture to

the care of landscapes where we live our daily lives and lands which we choose to steward.

Who should attend the course?



Julie Snell, AOLCP, TEND
Landscape, INC. & Hal
Rosner, Arborist and AOLCP

Landscapers - Designers - Landscape Architects - Garden Center employees - Municipal employees - Parks and Recreation employees - Land trust staff - Conservation property managers - Master gardeners Horticulturists - Horticulture and Landscape teachers - Entrepreneurs and new business owners

Are there pre-requisites for the course?

We have designed the course for professionals who have at least 5 years of experience and/or college level science studies. We expect students to be familiar with plant identification and landscaping maintenance practices. Pre-reading is not required, however reading the *Standards* in preparation for the course will allow you to absorb more information.

What is Accreditation?



At the end of the course, students will take a 50 question, multiple choice exam. Upon passing with a score of 70% or higher, students become an Accredited Organic Land Care Professional (AOLCP) which is a marketable credential offering many benefits. Join over 500 AOLCPs from over 20 States!

Students need to pay the annual fee each year and report 4 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) per year to re-accredit. Students can choose between Supporter Level or Business Level Accreditation, based upon their needs.

Supporters use the OLC logo and term AOLCP, however they do not own their own businesses or request our online marketing services. We have 300 supporters annually.

Business Level Accreditation offers online marketing for your business through our search-able database, nofa.organiclandcare.net, where your company name, location and services offered are listed. We have 200 business members listed annually.

Which subjects are covered in the Accreditation Course?

Sample agenda:

Day 1

Site Analysis, Design and Maintenance
Hydrology Overview
Soil Fundamentals
Organic Fertilizers & Amendments
Soil Health

Day 2

Soil Biology/Ecology
Compost and Compost Tea
Lawn Alternatives
Mulches
Invasive Plants

Day 3

Planting and Plant Care
Disease Control & Management
Pest Management Overview
Intro to Turf
Pest Management on Turf

Day 4

Soil Testing and Analysis
Permaculture Intro
GSI Case Studies
Business of Landscaping
Exam

What will I need to bring with me to the course?

Many students bring a laptop or ipad with them to the course. All subject matter from the presenters and course organizers will be given to students on a flash drive and be located in dropbox as well. We have committed to reducing paper for this course, and thus it is helpful for studying at night if you have a computer. The NOFA Standards paperback will be available to purchase if you should want to highlight the document or take notes, but it is also available for free in a PDF file.

Where will I stay?

NOFA arranges for a discounted room block at a hotel located near the course. Once students have signed up for the course, they will be sent information about hotel location, prices and room-sharing options.

What does the course cost?

\$695 includes full course, daily lunches, Accreditation Exam, and a one year Supporter-Level Accreditation. A Business Level Accreditation, which includes our online marketing, will cost an added \$75 for the current year. In the following years, this service will cost \$150 annually.

***Payment Plan Option:** Attendees can pay for the course in two installments, \$250 upon registration and pay the remainder three weeks prior to the first day of the course.

Group Discount: Groups of 3 or more registered by the same business or organization will receive a 10% discount on the full registration fees.

Cancellation Policy: For the 4-day, Accreditation Course, we would need two week's notice that you are not able to attend, in order to refund your money and give your space to another student.

To Pay By Check: Please fill out our online registration form and mail check for the full amount to CT NOFA, 126 Derby Avenue, Derby, CT 06418.

Referral Policy: If an accredited organic land care professional (AOLCP) referred you to the course, they will receive a \$25 credit if you write "Referred by [name]" in the comments box when you write a check or register online.

For more information about the Accreditation Course, please email Jeremy@organiclandcare.net and provide us with your contact information or call CT NOFA office at 203-308-2584