Horticulture Certificate and AAS Degree

Cannabis Curriculum

Niagara County Community College
Mission of the NCCC Horticulture program

The NCCC Horticulture program provides students with the knowledge, skills, and field experience necessary to excel in their careers and build a greener community.

To prepare students for employment in the green industry by engaging them in the art and science of plants.

With an emphasis on:

- sustainable horticultural techniques
- the latest scientific research
- best management practices

The NCCC Horticulture program provides students with the knowledge, skills, and field experience necessary to excel in their careers and build a greener community.
Real World Opportunities

• Provide students with educational and networking opportunities with the owners, managers, and employees of local industry leaders.

• Field trips
• Collaborative activities with businesses and trade associations
• Externships
• Job Placement assistance
Secured Partnerships with Industry Leaders

- Biotrax Testing Laboratory
- Empire Hemp Co.
- Flowered Wellness
- MJI Solutions
- One Hemp Holistics

- Plant Science Laboratories
- The Releaf Market
- Singer Farms Naturals
- Wheatfield Gardens
- and more to follow...
How Can Cannabis Courses be Taken at NCCC

Horticulture A.A.S degree

The NCCC Horticulture Certificate Program

A non-credit/non-degree basis through the NCCC Office of Workforce Development
Cannabis Curriculum Includes

All required classes from the Horticulture AAS or certificate programs, such as:

- Advanced First Aid & CPR
- Business Management
- Externship
- Plant Biology
- Soil Science
- Plant Protection (Integrated Pest Management) includes NYS 30-Hour Pesticide Applicator Training Certificate

9-15 credits of Horticulture electives selected from:

- Business of Cannabis
- Cannabis Biology
- Cannabis Pest Management
- Cannabis Production
- Cannabis Products & Technologies
- Greenhouse Management
- Medical Applications of Cannabis
- Culinary Cannabis and Edibles
‘SEED TO SALE’ MICRO-CREDENTIAL SERIES

• 3 New Micro-credentials:
  • Cannabis Production
  • Cannabis Manufacturing and Processing
  • Cannabis Business

• Can be earned in-person or online
NYS STATE AWARDS
$1 MILLION GRANT

• NCCC, in partnership with:
  • Erie Community College
  • Jamestown Community College
  • Genesee Community College
What We Plan To Invest In

• Scholarships
• Student Support Services
• Laboratory Expansion
• Curriculum Development
• Marketing
• Industry Seminars/Annual Cannabis Conference
• Project Oversight
• Industry Consultation
Hands-On Experience at NCCC

- Externships- 135 hours of internship at a site chosen by the student and coordinator.
- NCCC obtained a hemp research license from NY State. Investment in a secured cultivation container to grow hemp.
BRINGING EQUITY TO THE COMMUNITY

• A hallmark of the project will be an underlying focus on social equity serving as a driving force in program promotion, recruitment, and retention efforts in underrepresented populations.

• NCCC and ECC will enrich and expand credited and workforce cannabis curriculum offerings.

• Recruitment will focus on social equity and justice-involved populations.

• Scholarships and wrap-around services will be expanded for students.
  • Support will include, but not be limited to, case management, subsidized childcare, transportation stipends, career development, and food pantry services.
Preparing Students for Positions

• Cultivation Facility
• Extraction/Processing Facility
• Pest Management Specialist
• Post Harvest Technician
• Manufacturing Technician
• Retail Specialist/Budtender
• Quality Control Technician
• Edibles Chef
• Small Business Owner
Niagara County Community College Cannabis Program

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What is the MRTA?

- The MRTA was signed into law on March 31\textsuperscript{st}, 2021

- The MRTA created the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), overseen by a 5-member Cannabis Control Board (CCB)

- There is a 20-member Cannabis Advisory Board which met on June 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2022

- Legalized \textbf{adult-use cannabis} (recreational marijuana) while also expanding the State’s existing medical cannabis and cannabinoid hemp (CBD) programs

- Legalization represents a shift to a \textbf{public health framework} for cannabis policy
The MRTA Emphasizes Social and Economic Justice

- **Record Expungement**: Automatically clears an individual’s past marijuana convictions. Nearly 400,000 records will be expunged.

- **Community Reinvestment**: Invests 40% of the adult-use cannabis tax revenue toward rebuilding communities impacted by disproportionate policing during cannabis prohibition.

- **Equity in the Market**: Sets a goal to award 50% of all adult-use licenses to social and economic equity applicants. Development of a Social and Economic Equity Plan and programs to help licensees be successful.
Adult-Use Cannabis Taxation

- Weight-based tax replaced with a THC per mg tax with different rates depending on final product type:
  - $.03 per mg THC edible, $.05 per mg THC cannabis flower and $.08 per mg THC concentrate.
  - THC tax can help push consumers to lower potency products by making high potency products more expensive, helping achieve public health goals.

- 9% state excise tax on the sale of cannabis products by a retailer to a cannabis consumer.

- 4% local excise tax rate at retail price. (25% to county, 75% to city/town/village) Villages within towns may establish their own revenue distribution agreements.
Adult-Use Cannabis Taxation
For Counties

- Medical cannabis will continue to be subject to a **7% excise tax**
  - 22.5% of the monies shall be transferred to the counties in which the medical cannabis was manufactured.
  - 22.5% of the moneys shall be transferred to the counties in which the medical cannabis was dispensed.
  - Possible **45%** from Medical Cannabis

- **4% local excise tax** rate at retail price.
  (25% to county, 75% to city/town/village)
New York State Cannabis Revenue Fund

• All cannabis revenue deposited into this fund

• Community Grants Reinvestment
  – Grants to non-profit and community-based organizations in communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition and other social equity initiatives as determined by the Cannabis Advisory Board

• Drug Treatment & Public Education
  – Develop and implement statewide public education campaigns and provide substance use disorder treatment programs for youth and adults
Opportunities in the NYS Cannabis Industry
Adult-Use Cannabis Supply Chain

CULTIVATORS → MANUFACTURERS → WHOLESALERS → RETAILERS

The Economic Impact of Developing the Adult-Use Cannabis Industry in New York | Rockefeller Institute of Government (rockinst.org)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail-Dispensary</td>
<td>Sells cannabis products directly to consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Site Consumption</td>
<td>Sells directly to consumers for use on-site at the location (like a bar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivator</td>
<td>Growing, cloning, harvesting, drying, curing, grading, trimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Only clones, immature plants, seeds, and other agricultural products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>Extracts concentrated cannabis and/or compounds or manufactures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributor</td>
<td>Wholesale sale to dispensary, on-site consumption, or delivery service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery</td>
<td>Bringing cannabis products directly to consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult-Use Cooperative</td>
<td>Democratically controlled. Can cultivate, process, distribute. Cannot sell directly to consumer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbusiness</td>
<td>May be cultivator, processor, distributor or retailer. No person can own more than one license</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building the New York Cannabis Industry

Ancillary Businesses

- Packaging and Labeling Companies
- Secure transport businesses
- Security companies
- Vape and other cannabis devices
- E-commerce websites
- Licensing and branding companies
- Marketing and design agencies
- Media networks
- Retail design firms
- Hydroponics
- Vertical agriculture
- Greenhouse systems
- Horticultural lighting companies
- Nutrient suppliers
- Extraction equipment
- Commercial kitchens
- Payroll companies
- Compliance
- Point-of-Sale Systems
- Software and mobile application developers
- Accounting
- Real Estate
Conditional Adult-Use Licenses
Adult-Use Licenses

Conditional Licenses

- Stand-alone conditional licensing system.
- Creating a micro cannabis ecosystem in NYS.
- Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator License
- Adult-Use Conditional Processor License
- Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary License (CAURD)

MRTA Licenses

- All nine license types.
- These licenses will be included in the regulations which will soon be released.
Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator License

• April 2022, the Cannabis Control Board began issuing the Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator licenses.

• As of August 15, 2022, the Cannabis Control Board has issued over 240 Conditional Cultivator Licenses.

• These are the first adult-use cannabis licenses granted in New York State.

• Conditionally licensed cannabis farmers must meet certain requirements, including:
  - Safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly cultivation practices
  - Participation in a social equity mentorship program
  - Engagement in a labor peace agreement with a bona fide labor organization
Adult-Use Conditional Processor License

- Cannabis Control Board opened the processor licensing application on June 28, 2022.

- As of August 15, 2022, the Cannabis Control Board has issued 15 Conditional Processor License.

- The application window closed on August 31, 2022.

- The Conditional Processing Licensees are necessary to complete the processing, packaging and distribution of products to the retail dispensaries.
Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary

- March 2022, the Cannabis Control Board passed a Resolution established the framework for Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensaries (CAURD) to open.

- This seeks to position equity businesses with critical first mover advantage in the New York Cannabis Industry.

- On August 25, 2022, the application for CAURD licenses became available.

To be eligible to apply for a Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary an applicant must:

1. Have had a cannabis related offense in the State of New York, or had a parent, guardian, child, spouse, or dependent before the Cannabis Law passed in March of 2021.

2. Have experience owning and operating a qualifying business.
Overview of the MRTA
Ecosystem for Long-Term Success

• Governor Hochul took a huge step forward in her State of the State with her announcement of a $200 million public-private fund that will provide capital funding to equity entrepreneurs.

• Entrepreneurs may use the program to help:
  – Identifying or acquiring or leasing retail space
  – Designing and constructing space
  – Fitting out locations with furniture and other equipment

• Funds will be supported by $50 million from licensing fees and revenue plus another $150 million from the private sector.
Public Health Campaign
Overview of the MRTA

Public Health Overview

- Adult-use only (21+) retail market-place
- Gives the Cannabis Control Board authority to establish rules for product quality assurance for production and manufacturing and robust laboratory testing requirements
- Packaging and labeling can’t appeal to youth
- Requires warning labels on all cannabis and cannabis product packages
- Any broadcast, cable, radio, print and digital advertisements can only be placed where the audience is expected to be 21 or older. Cannabis advertisement on billboards are banned
- No unsolicited internet pop-ups, promoting overconsumption
- No advertising within 500 ft of school grounds, playgrounds, child day care, public park or libraries
- State lab to conduct quality assurance checks on third-party labs
- June 1, 2022, the Cannabis Control Board issued the Packaging and Labeling Proposed Regulations
Public Education Campaign

• **Cannabis Conversations**: 3-month long campaign to educate the general public about the law and focus on key public health and safety messages, answering the questions:

  - *Who can use?*
  - *Where can you use?*
  - *How do you safely use?*

• Ran on all types of paid media, in English and Spanish, including: Social Media & Digital, TV, Radio, Streaming, Billboards, Mass Transit, Gas Stations, and more.

• First ad on social equity in cannabis premiered on June 2, 2022, during the NBA Finals.

• Over 135 million impressions, 313,000 clicks, and nearly 22 million video completions across all channels. Performance far exceeded media industry benchmarks.
Current Activities
Enforcement
Illicit Market and “Gifting”

- Some stores are accepting donations for a product of nominal value and then claiming they're "gifting" cannabis to the customer. **This is illegal.**

- **There are no legal sales of non-medical cannabis in New York yet.**

- October 21, 2021, the Cannabis Control Board addressed this topic. Chair Wright and Executive Director Alexander both issue statements on “Gifting”.

- February 8, 2022, OCM began sending cease and desist letter to suspected violators.

- July 7, 2022, the OCM sent out a press release detailing it efforts to fight “gifting” which listed businesses in violation.
Enforcement

• Using existing laws
  ➢ Any building, zoning or health law that are pertinent

• MRTA and unlicensed entities
  ➢ Anticipate future legislation

• The OCM enforcement team is working with local law enforcement agencies

• Email: enforcement@ocm.ny.gov
Home Growing in NYS?

• Currently, home cultivation is not legal in NYS

• **18-months** after the first dispensary opens, New Yorkers who are 21 and older can grow in their own home:
  – Up to six plants for personal use (3 mature plants and 3 immature plants)
  – A maximum of 12 plants per household (even if there are three or more adults over the age of 21)

• Medical cannabis patients will be allowed to grow at home first:
  – April 14, 2022, CCB released the Medical Cannabis Home Cultivation Regulations for the second round of public comments

Cannabis is legal in New York but only for adults 21+.
Thank you all for joining us today.

- To share information on upcoming events please email OCM at: events@ocm.ny.gov

- To receive regular updates from OCM please sign up at: www.cannabis.ny.gov