

## ***New Faller Training Certificate Program – Frequently Asked Questions*** ***Presented in partnership with the BC Forest Safety Council***

### ***Program Background and the Training of New Fallers***

The BC Forest Safety Council has developed a structured training program for individuals new to falling activity as a way to improve safety in the field. This training process prepares individuals to take the Faller Certification exams through the BC Forest Safety Council. The full training process is comprised of 3 modules:

- *Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification*: a 5-day program that includes the Basic Chainsaw Operator certification;
- *Falling Basics*: a 25-day program that includes classroom and supervised field training;
- *Trainee Faller*: up to 180 days of closely supervised field experiences with a fully qualified falling supervisor.

In partnership with the BC Forest Safety Council, Vancouver Island University's *New Faller Training Program* provides individuals with the first 2 modules of this 3 module process.

### ***What is the format of the New Faller Training Certificate Program?***

The program consists of two courses: *Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification & Falling Basics*. *Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification* consists of 5 days of classroom and hands-on chainsaw work, and takes place from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm daily. *Falling Basics* consists of 25 days of closely supervised field training. The field training location varies depending on available timber supply. Registered students will be notified of the timber site approximately two weeks prior to the start of the course.

### ***How many students are in the class?***

*Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification*: There are 6 seats available for each course, and they are filled on a first come first served basis. If there are sufficient students, a second intake may be added.

*Falling Basics*: There are 9 seats available for each course. Registration in *Falling Basics* is taken on an ongoing basis; however, you are only eligible for registration once you have successfully completed the *Faller Prep* course. A deposit of \$1,000 is required upon registration in *Falling Basics*.

### ***What are the prerequisites for these courses?***

*Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification*: A minimum of Grade 8 level education is required due to the nature of the exams and complex field work. You will need to be physically fit to keep up in the field. Having prior chainsaw experience will be an asset.

*Falling Basics*: Successful completion of *Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification* **prior** to registration.

### ***What are the completion requirements for these courses and the certificate program?***

Full participation and attendance is required throughout the entire program.

Successful completion of all the decision points of the *Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification* is required in order to be eligible for registration in the *Falling Basics* course. Students who achieve a minimum score of 75% on the written and 80% on the field examination for the Basic Chainsaw Operator portion of the *Faller Prep* course will receive their Basic Chainsaw Operator Certificate from the BC Forest Safety Council regardless of whether or not they successfully complete the rest of the *Faller Prep* course.

To complete the *Falling Basics* course and earn the program certificate, students must successfully complete all of the course's decision points, and receive a minimum grade of 75% for all written/oral and field examinations throughout the course.

### ***Is there a work placement?***

You are responsible for setting up a paid work placement with a falling company prior to entering the program; however, the BC Forest Safety Council is committed to helping you with your search. If you need more direction with this, please contact the BC Forest Safety Council at 1-877-741-1060, and they will support you.

### ***What is the cost of the program?***

*Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification:* Tuition of \$1,500 is due upon registration.

Please note that students are responsible for equipment, accommodation, transportation, and meals for the duration of the program and will need to budget approximately \$1,550 in addition to tuition costs for the *Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification* course (see information below).

*Falling Basics:* Tuition of \$11,000. A \$1,000 deposit is due upon registration to hold your seat. The balance of your tuition is due 6 weeks prior to the start of the course. Please note that due to the high costs to run this program your fees will be non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the start date.

Please note that students are responsible for equipment, accommodation, transportation, and meals for the duration of the program and will need to budget approximately \$6,550 in addition to tuition costs for the *Falling Basics* course (see information below).

In the event of course disruption or delays due to unforeseen changes in market or environmental conditions, students are solely responsible for any and all additional costs related to subsequent program delays including, but not limited to, meals, accommodation, and transportation.

Note: Fees are subject to change.

### ***Why might the course be delayed/disrupted?***

There are several reasons that the program might be delayed. Since the students are working in remote areas doing challenging, physical work, their safety is the instructor's primary consideration. Unforeseen storms, high winds, high temperatures, etc. could all prove dangerous to falling activities and often come up unexpectedly. In the event that such conditions occur, the course is stopped until conditions are deemed safe. Such delays could last one day or several weeks. Additionally, changing market conditions in the forestry industry might result in a program delay.

In the event of course disruption or delays, students are solely responsible for any and all additional costs related to the program delays including, but not limited to, meals, accommodation, and transportation.

### ***What about accommodations and food?***

You are responsible for purchasing all meals and your own accommodations for both courses. Please allow for a 30 day period for the Falling Basics course when planning for these costs before you leave home. It can be difficult to get to a bank because of the hours of this program and the distance away from town. Instructors will not be giving loans to students. It is our intent to identify an accommodation within close proximity to the field training site to save on travel time and to minimize coordination for instructors. Instructors also use hotel rooms as a backup to review material in the event of inclement weather. Students who require accommodation for the New Faller Training Program will receive this information as soon as it becomes available.

### ***Will I need a vehicle?***

You will be expected to arrange your own transportation for the duration of the program. Students may wish to make their own arrangements to carpool.

### ***What supplies do I need to purchase?***

Vancouver Island University and the BC Forest Safety Council do not supply equipment for the use of students in this program. Students will receive information about required supplies and equipment upon registration in each course. We recommend you bring only those items that you already have in your possession and wait to purchase any other supplies until the first week of each class. This will ensure your supplies meet the requirements of the BC Forest Safety Council, and you may receive a discount from the local suppliers for any items you might need to purchase.

***What are my chances for employment after completing this program?***

Your chances of finding work upon program completion are great. BC Forest Safety Council and industry information reports there is a shortage of fallers in British Columbia. At this time, all students who have successfully completed the program were offered work with some receiving multiple offers.

***What happens after the program is complete?***

You will receive a field skills log book that has a record of your performance and a recommendation from the instructor. You will either be ready to apply for certification through the BC Forest Safety Council or to work closely supervised with a qualified falling supervisor for up to 180 days.

***How do I register for this course?***

*Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification:* Please contact the VIU Continuing Studies front line staff using one of the numbers listed at the bottom of this page.

*Falling Basics:* If you have successfully completed *Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator Certification* course and are prepared to pay your deposit for Falling Basics, please call Deborah Hopper at (250) 740-6580.

***If you have any New Faller Training Certificate Program concerns or questions, please contact:***

Deborah Hopper, Program Assistant  
Centre for Continuing Studies, VIU  
(250) 740-6580  
[Deborah.Hopper@viu.ca](mailto:Deborah.Hopper@viu.ca)

***For information on Faller Certification and potential job placements, please contact:***

Wendy Gaskill  
BC Forest Safety Council  
1-877-741-1060  
[Gaskill@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:Gaskill@bcforestsafesafe.org)

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**Nanaimo Campus**

900 Fifth Street  
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Tel: (250) 740-6160  
Toll Free: 1-866-734-6252  
Fax: (250) 740-6452  
Email: [ccs@viu.ca](mailto:ccs@viu.ca)

**Parksville/Qualicum Centre**

Parksville Civic & Technology Centre  
100 Jensen Avenue East, Box 42  
Parksville, BC V9P 2G3  
Tel: (250) 248-2096  
Toll Free: 1-866-734-6252  
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**Visit our Website ■ [www.viu.ca/ccs](http://www.viu.ca/ccs)**

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