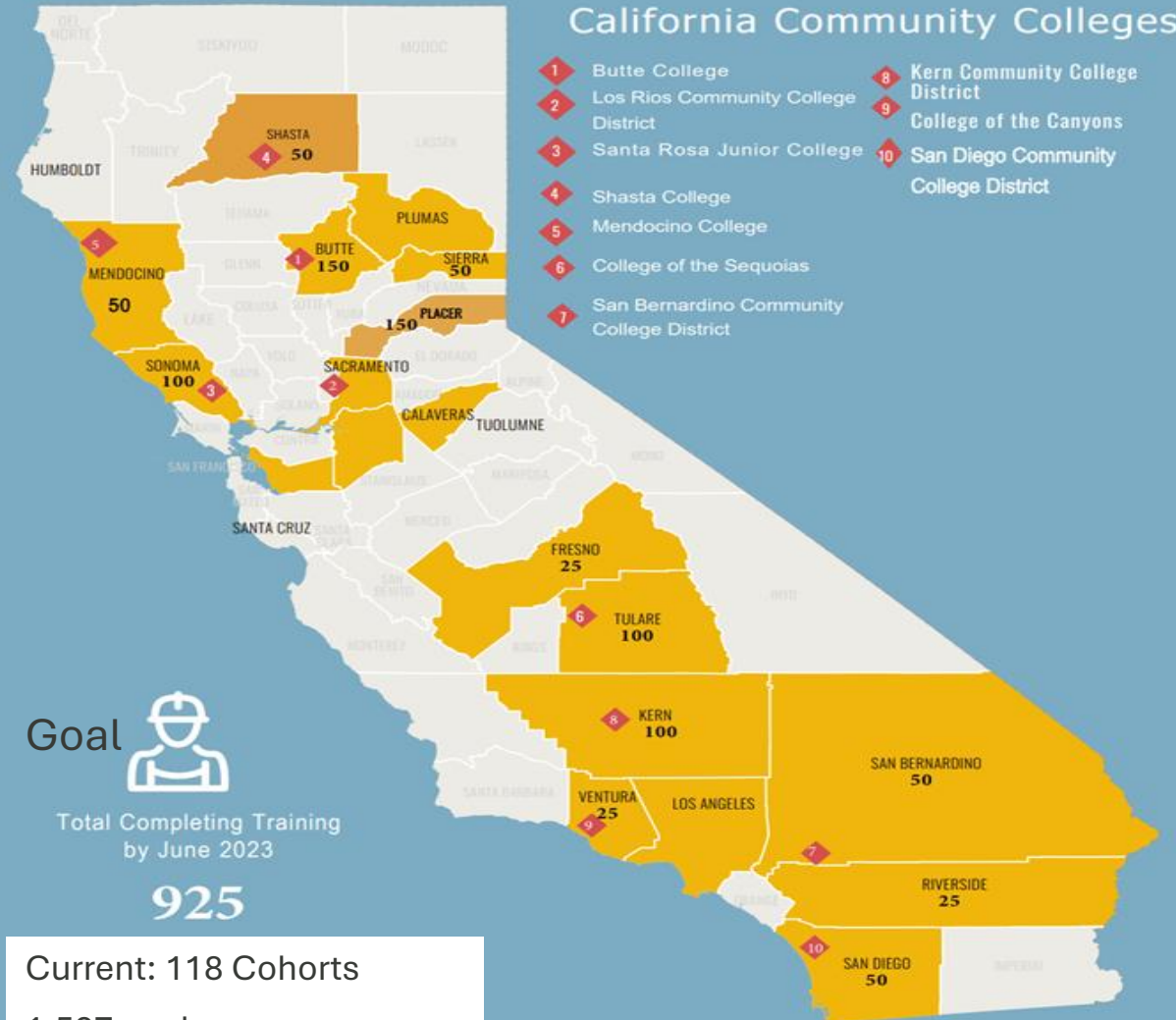




RAPID RESPONSE IMPACT

Utility Line Clearance Arborist Workforce Need

2019 – Current



CORE PROGRAM #1

Utility Line Clearance Arborist Training (ULCAT)

- Five-week, 200-hour classroom field - blended curriculum
- Safety Certifications: OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR, Flagger, EHAP
- Technical Competencies: PPE, Chipper Operations, Chainsaw Operations, Tree Climbing I, Limbing and Bucking, Aerial Rescue Operations: Job-site setup, crew team work, and 3-way communications
- Industry standards: ANSI Z133, BMP's Arborist Curriculum

Utility Line Clearance Arborist Training
200 hours, 5 weeks, 1 module per week

Module 1:
Safety & Introduction to
Ground Worker Responsibilities

Introduction to Utility arborist Career

Supporting Industry and partners

Careers & Opportunities in Arboriculture

Intro to the Utility Arborist & Career paths

Utility's responsibility to manage vegetation

Groundworker Responsibilities

Emergency Response

OSHA 10

AHA CPR / First aid

Injury and Illness Prevention Program

Job Briefing

Effective Tailgate Safety Meetings

Communications

Certified Flagger Training



Module 2:
Mobile Equipment Operations
& Electrical Hazard Awareness

Mobile Equipment Inspection

Safe Driver Awareness

Arborist Hand-tools

Protecting Property

Aerial Truck Operations

Tree and Site Inspection

Chipper Truck Familiarization and
operations

Chipper Truck and Trailer driving and
backing Assessments

Fire safety prevention and firefighting
equipment and procedures

Electrical Hazard Awareness Program



Module 3: Chain Saw Operations

Introduction to Chain Saws

Chainsaw user level-maintenance

Limbing and Bucking Techniques

Spring Pole and Tension Cuts

Job site set-up and inspection

Hazard tree identification

Cable-puller Operations and Set-up

Tree Felling Techniques

Bucket Truck Saw Operations

Worksite clean-up



Module 4: Basic Climbing & Pruning Techniques

Tree Anatomy and Biology

Introduction to Pruning techniques

Introduction to Climbing Basics

Setting and installing a climbing line

Moving Rope Systems

Ascending and Descending Techniques

Climbing Practices

Aerial Rescue Demonstration

Knot Assessment

Climbing Assessment

SRS/Advanced Climbing



Module 5: Human Performance Improvement & Skill Assessments

Human Performance Improvement

Mobile Equipment Operations Skills
assessments

Chain saw Operations Skills
assessments

Job Site Set-up Skills assessments

Climbing Skills assessments

Emergency Response Drill

Equipment Maintenance

Graduation



Utility Arborist Career Path

CalOSHA requires 18 months of training to become a Qualified Line Clearance Tree Trimmer

Utility Line Clearance Arborist Career Path



Pre-employment
5-weeks (200 hrs)
California
Community
College/UAA

Utility Arborist Trainee 200-hour program

Training Source: "TCIA Arborist
Apprentice - Year 1"

- General Safety
- Arborist Equipment Fundamentals
- Introduction to Aerial Work
- Aerial Lift Basics
- Introduction to Tree & Shrub
Identification
- Pruning Fundamentals
- Intro to Aerial Work -
Tree Climbing Basics
- EHAP

Training Source: "ISA Utility
Specialist Study Guide"

- Introduction to the Utility Arborist
- Safety
- Utility Pruning
- Electrical Knowledge
- Communications

Certifications Earned

- First aid/CPR
- OSHA-10
- NSC Flagger certification

1-year Membership

Utility Arborist Association (UAA)

**Next 18 months of
employment:**
CalOSHA Qualified
Line Clearance Tree
Trimmer Trainee
Employer's
on-the-Job training
program

- CalOSHA Title 8 Tree Pruning Safety Standards
- Electrical Hazard Training
- Tree Identification
- Ropes, Knots, & Climbing
- Aerial Rescue Techniques
- Safe use of Line Clearance Chain Saws
- maintenance
- Tree Pruning
- Climbing & working in trees
- Working in the proximity of
energized conductors
- Herbicide Right-to-know
- Traffic control & flagging
- Tailgate & Safety Programs
- Tree removals, removal of overhangs,
and work of more difficult nature
- IBEW Certification (being developed)

**After 18 months of
experience:** CalOSHA
Qualified
Line-Clearance Tree
Trimmer

Employer's Qualified Line Clearance
Tree Trimmer Certification Program



This is sample card only

Optional: ISA certifications



This certification is not
widely used by the Utility
Arborists, but may be
required for municipality
contract in California



This certification is not
widely used by the Utility
Arborists

After 3 years of experience:
Preparing for Management
Promotions (Certifications
that require 3 years of
full-time experience)



Certified Arborist is
required when
promoted into
management

Optional: After qualifying as an ISA Certified Arborist:



This certification is the highest
credential offered by ISA

After becoming a Certified Arborist:



Utility Specialist is required when
promoted into management



Tree Risk Assessment Qualifiaid
(TRAQ) is required when promoted
into management

Tree Care Industry Association



Certified TreeCare Safety Professional

**College-level online
Professional Development
Training Program**
(management training)

Utility Vegetation Management
(UVM) Certificate Program
University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point

Obtain the knowledge, skills & competence to
develop sustainable UVM plans

UVM program planning

Program & project
management processes, tools
& techniques

Integration of safety, UVM,
environmental stewardship & best
practices

After completing the UVM Certificate Program

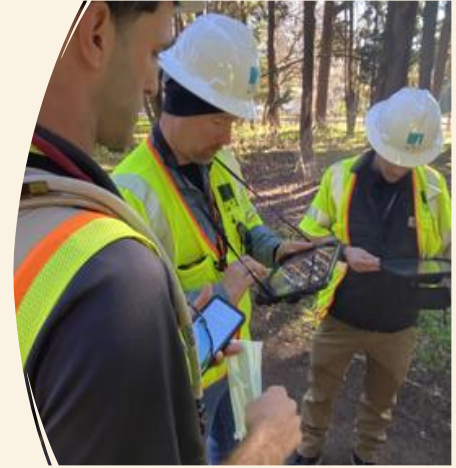


Utility Arborist
Association
Credential

CORE PROGRAM #2

Utility Vegetation Management Pre-Inspector Training Program

- Two-week, 80-hour classroom & field activity blend curriculum
- Facility and vegetation identification, defect assessment, communication skills, hazard rules
- 4 Knowledge Tests; 4 Practical Examinations
assessment of knowledge, skills and abilities
- Immediate pipeline: utility inspector careers Position title:
Consulting Utility Forester (CUF)



Week 1 40 hours Curriculum



Foundations of Utility Vegetation Management

- Utility's responsibility to manage vegetation
- Overview of EHAP – Includes substation visit
- Laws, regulations, industry standards, PPE

Safety & Environmental Awareness

- Animal, plant, fire, and driving safety (review & videos)

Tree Science & Risk Concepts

- Tree biology and species identification
- Tree and site defects, conditions, and mitigation strategies
- Tree risks vs. benefits

Field Operations & Communication

- Crew types and work restrictions
- Work request processes and documentation
- Communication: internal, external, and with landowners

Practical Skills Introduction

- Tree inventory: data collection and Tree ID

Week 2

40 hours

Field

Application Curriculum



Jobsite Skills

- Job Risk Assessments (JRA)
- Fire tool use and safety protocols
- Site setup procedures

Field Measurement & Data Collection

- Tree height, diameter, and clearance measurement
- Hands-on use of Resource Keeper for digital work requests

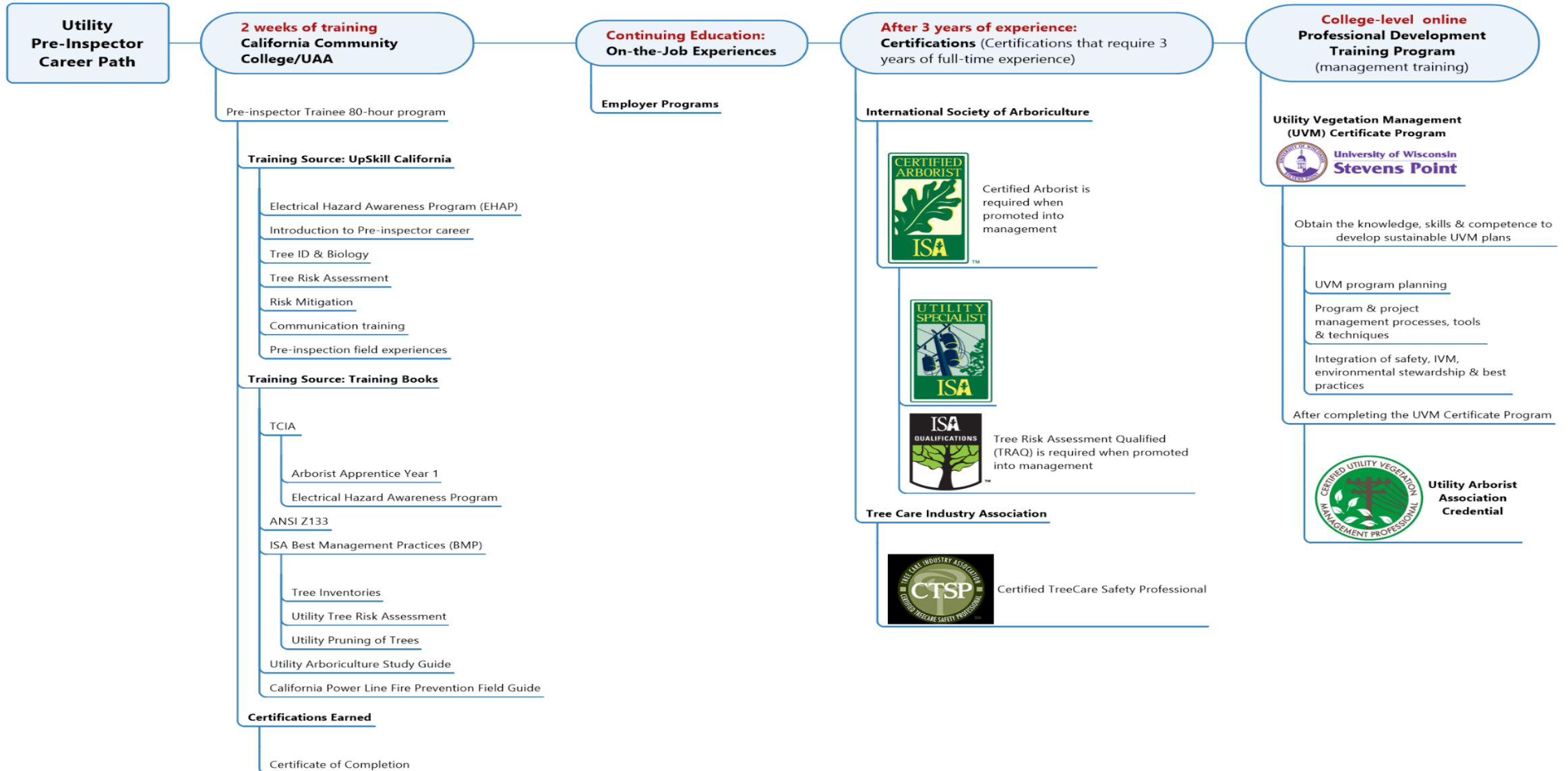
Applied Field Practice

- Tree ID and biology in natural settings
- Utility Tree Risk Assessment (UTRA) field exercises
- Simulated pre-inspections: daily workflow of a Pre-Inspector

Reinforcement Activities

- Scenario-based training: Tree defects, conditions, site context
- Communication practice & escalation decisions (e.g. Level 2s)
- Realistic field drills to apply Week 1 classroom content

UVM Pre-Inspector Career Path





Utility Line Vegetation Management Training						
Delivery Outcome Report						
Arborist Training						
As of 8/22/25						
California Community College	# of Classes	Enrolled	Graduates	Success Rate	Male	Female
Butte College	14	209	191	91%	177	23
College of Sequoias	15	154	150	97%	142	12
El Camino CCD	2	20	19	95%	18	1
Folsom Lake College	8	103	95	92%	82	15
Kern CCD	6	69	63	91%	63	4
Mendocino-Lake CCD	5	64	55	86%	52	4
San Bernardino CCD	14	180	152	84%	134	26
San Diego CCD	8	146	140	96%	118	28
Shasta College	1	15	13	87%	10	3
Saddleback Los Pinos CCC's Site	1	21	21	100%	20	1
Santa Rosa Junior College	2	22	35	159%	36	7
TOTAL PROJECT TO DATE	76	1003	934	93%	852	124
						15%
Pre Inspector Level 1						
As of 7/31/25						
California Community College	# of Classes	Enrolled	Graduates	Success Rate	Male	Female
Butte College	11	169	162	96%	145	21
College of the Sequoias	9	69	58	84%	60	9
El Camino College	2	39	38	97%	31	7
Folsom College	6	105	94	90%	76	29
Kern Community College	6	94	75	80%	73	16
Mendocino College	2	27	24	89%	24	1
Reedley College	1	17	16	94%	11	6
San Bernardino CCD	3	39	37	95%	34	5
Santa Rosa Junior College	1	19	19	100%	17	2
San Diego College	1	16	12	75%	10	2
TOTAL PROJECT TO DATE	42	594	535	90%	481	98
						18%



Job Placement Assistance:
Robust job placement support for graduates

Cohorts: 118
Total: 1,597 Graduates

Note: Graduates receive a one-year membership to UAA