The Hispanic orchard employee education program (HOEEP) at Wenatchee Valley College is a certificate program designed to increase the professional and supervisory abilities of orchard employees and their contributions to orchard operations. The program includes instruction in basic horticulture, agriculture-based English, math and basic computer operations.

Horticulture classes for beginning-level students are conducted in Spanish. They include basic plant physiology, soils, equipment maintenance, nutrition, integrated pest management, pruning and training. Orchard production systems, orchard economics, supervisory skills and orchard safety are also taught. Basic skills instruction is in English and includes reading, writing, basic mathematics and word problems, an introduction to computers, and subjects concerning everyday life and citizenship.

Advanced-level students continue their ag-based English and math studies, and go into more depth on tree fruit topics with a focus on orchard economics and modern fruit production techniques. Instruction is in English.

The HOEEP is a certificate program that consists of 17-19 weeks of instruction from mid-October to mid-March. Classes are held three times a week from mid-afternoon to early evening in Wenatchee and other North Central Washington communities. The WVC HOEEP is offered in partnership with Big Bend Community College and Columbia Basin College.
HISPANIC ORCHARD EMPLOYEE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Beginning Level—AGRI 005

Basic Horticulture: plant physiology, soils, irrigation, integrated pest management, pruning/training, equipment maintenance and calibration, safety, orchard economics, personnel management, and recertification credits. Instruction is in Spanish. Includes fruit industry field trips.

English and Math: phonics, reading, basic writing, listening comprehension, communication skills, basic mathematical operations, word problems, introduction to computers, and subjects concerning everyday life and citizenship. Instruction is in English.

Advanced Level—AGRI 006

More in-depth focus on Level 1 subjects: higher levels of English and math, emphasis on orchard economics and modern fruit production techniques. All instruction is in English. Students will be placed in Level 2 with approval of the instructors.

For program prerequisites please refer to the college catalog.

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Notice of Nondiscrimination/Disability Policy

Wenatchee Valley College is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in employment and student enrollment. All programs are free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran in accordance with state and federal laws. Questions regarding services for students with disabilities should be directed to the special populations coordinator.