



Oregon Master Beekeeper Program

'Getting Started' Apprentice Program Overview and Expectations

This document outlines what you can expect from the program and, in turn, what we expect from you.

One indicator of potential success for Apprentice students is a demonstration of their commitment to beekeeping. The 'Getting Started' program is offered to those who indicate they have no experience to one year experience keeping bees, or have between 1 to 3 years' experience but do not have access to a hive. Students must be 18 years or older to enroll.

'Getting Started' Apprentice Program Requirements	
Year 1: January 1st – June 30th	Year 2: January to December (Traditional Apprentice Program)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$75 non-refundable fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$75 non-refundable fee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hive required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hive access required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assigned mentor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are top of the waiting list for an assigned mentor (based on mentor availability)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch a minimum of 5 online class modules (for 10 class attendance points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional class time is encouraged but not required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend 2 hours "in the bees" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn 6 education points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass an open book non-timed written exam with a score of 90% or better based on the course textbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with mentor "in the bees" 4 times to complete 4 field worksheets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit 4 hive maintenance log entries covering the bee year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all above requirements between January 1st and June 30th 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all above requirements within the year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document your completed requirements on the OMB Reporting System, and prior to June 30th place yourself on the waiting list for a mentor the next year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document your completed requirements on the OMB Reporting System, and notify program admin you are ready to be certified
Eligible to move to Traditional Apprentice Program to complete certification requirements	Certified as an Apprentice and eligible to move to the Journey level

The 'Getting Started' Apprentice Program differs from our Traditional Apprentice Program in that you will not be assigned a mentor your first year. Applicants who qualify for the Traditional Apprentice Program who are unable to be assigned a mentor will be offered the 'Getting Started' option.

Our goal will be to provide you with a foundation in beekeeping. This will be achieved through online classroom participation, passing an exam, and finding the opportunity to observe bees (through a local Bee School or bee association). Upon successful completion of the 'Getting Started' level of our program, the following year you will be given an opportunity to be matched with an available mentor in your area to develop your hands-on beekeeping skills.

REPORTING YOUR PROGRESS

'Getting Started' students who complete all of the program requirements by the end of June the first year are given top priority for mentor assignment the next year. It is the student's responsibility to document their work on the Reporting System, and once the requirements have been met, to place their name on the waiting list for a mentor the following year. Your username is your first and last name combined, all lower case (ex: *jenholt*). A temporary password of *honeybees* has been set for you, and can be changed once you log in. Find the Reporting System here:

<https://report.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org/>

We are constantly striving to improve our program. Students are requested to help us in our efforts by providing program feedback via a brief mid-year and end-of-year online survey. Thank you!

COMPUTER ACCESS

Access to email and the internet is essential for those participating in the program. Students are required to have access to a computer or other means to send/receive email and to access the internet. Each student account requires an email address as part of the setup process. Internet access allows students to access resources, exams, class videos, progress reports, etc. We also ask students to upload completed documents. If you do not have access to a computer or other means of communicating electronically, please let us know.

TEXTBOOK

Students are responsible for purchasing the program textbook - *The Beekeeper's Handbook* by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile, 4th edition, Cornell University Press. This text is available widely from both local and online booksellers. Please let us know if you have trouble obtaining the book. Supplemental material is available on the website under Apprentice Documents. Students are encouraged to read widely in honey bee literature and journals.

CLASSES

The OMB program offers 8 modules of recorded instruction for online viewing at 2 points each; a minimum of 10 points is required. 'Getting Started' students may access recorded online classes from the Reporting System (<https://report.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org/>). Class "attendance" is recorded by the student in the Reporting System.

'IN THE BEES' ACTIVITIES

It is important that students are exposed to a live colony before being assigned a program mentor. An 'In the Bees' activity could be attendance at a local bee school, bee association field day, apiary visit, or any other similar activity that provides the opportunity to see someone work live honey bees.

WRITTEN EXAM

The written exam is based on *The Beekeeper's Handbook*. It may be taken at any time. The exam is open book and not timed. A passing grade of 90% is required. If not obtained, the student may take the exam again after 30 days.

Remember, it is the student's responsibility to:

- Take the initiative to learn about bees and beekeeping
- Obtain a course textbook
- Look for opportunities to be “in the bees”
- Use the resources available to you on the program's website
- Complete the program within the specified time period
- Document your progress on the OMB Reporting System (<https://report.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org>)
- Provide program feedback via brief online surveys
- Prior to June 30th, if the requirements have been met, place yourself on the waiting list for an assigned mentor the following year

