

Which VCIH Program is Right for Me?	Herbal Roots	Family Herbalist	Clinical Herbalist
Program level	Beginner	Intermediate	Intermediate/Advanced
Length	7 months	10.5 months	3 years (includes 1 year in Family Herbalist)
Program hours	188	358.25	1626
Format	Weekly in-person classes; course starts with 3 synchronous online foundation classes while weather warms up	Weekly synchronous online classes (1 day/week) + three 6-day learning intensives (2 offered in hybrid in-person or online format)	Weekly synchronous online classes (2 days/week in years two and three) + three 6-day learning intensives (2 offered in hybrid in-person or online format) each year
What you'll learn	Grow, harvest, prepare and use common medicinal herbs Work with herbs to safely and effectively address common complaints Fundamentals of first aid, plant identification skills, herbal properties, and traditional energetic systems.	Learn to support your community with herbal knowledge in informal, relational contexts (e.g. family, neighbors, extended community, mutual aid networks). Courses in advanced medicine making, energetics systems, botany, plant chemistry, human physiology, materia medica, herbal therapeutics, food as medicine, relational culture and justice in herbalism.	Develop skills to practice professionally as a clinical herbalist. Advanced courses include clinical skills, pharmacology, advanced therapeutics, herbal safety, nutrition, materia medica, assessment skills, and business development. Includes 1 year of internship in our supervised, sliding-scale student clinic. Meets educational requirements (and some clinical hours) required for Registered Herbalist (RH) status with the American Herbalists Guild (AHG).
Option for 100% online attendance	No	Yes – but we encourage you to attend at least one intensive in person, if possible!	
In person attendance	Required	Optional – two of the 6-day learning intensives each year are offered in person in early and late summer	
Program dates	April - November	February - December	February - December
Breaks	2 weeks off late August to early September	2 weeks off mid-May; 3 weeks off early August; 1 week off Thanksgiving/Indigenous People's Day	
Class Days	Mondays (9-5 ET)	Wednesdays (9-5 ET)	Y1/Family: Wednesday 9-5 ET Y2: Thursdays (9-5:30 ET) & Fridays (9-5 ET) & 6 Saturdays (approximately monthly) Y3: Mondays (1-8 ET) Tuesdays (9-6 ET)
Weekly contact hours (Class time)	7	6.5	13.5
Average weekly homework time	None required(1-3 hours, optional)	12-15 hours	15-20 hours
Prerequisites	None	Herbal Roots program or other herbal apprenticeship / experience	Herbal Roots program or other herbal apprenticeship / experience (may start in second year with intermediate training from another school that is comparable to our Family program)
Application deadline	March 15	August 15	August 15
Deposit	\$250	\$250	\$250
Tuition	\$2,730	\$4,770	Y1/Family: \$4770 Y2: \$8985 Y3: \$6465 Total: \$20,220