



# Dolphin Research Center Training Institute

## Occupational Associate's Degree in Marine Mammal Behavior, Care, and Training Frequently Asked Questions

### What degree is offered at DRCTI?

Currently, the DRCTI offers an Occupational Associate's Degree in Marine Mammal Behavior, Care and Training, with the intention of expanding and offering other degrees within the field of marine mammal professions.

### Where can I find detailed information on the degree program?

Please visit the website: <http://www.dolphininstitute.edu>

There you will find information on:

- Student Performance Standards
- An Institutional Course Catalog
- Course listing and description
- Academic Calendar

### How do I apply for the program?

The MMBCT program will only accept applications from September 1st through February 28th each year. Any applications postmarked before or after these dates will not be considered. An application may be downloaded from the DRCTI website. In addition to the application, official copies of all college transcripts are required, showing completion of the required prerequisites, as well as a current CPR certification and physician's release form. All of these documents must be received in the MMBCT office postmarked between September 1st and February 28th, or they will not be reviewed.

### Are there prerequisites?

It is strongly recommended that applicants have prior experience working with animals in some capacity. This helps to prepare students for the long hours, intense commitment, and varied duties that must be performed during the program at Dolphin Research Center and on the campus of the Dolphin Research Center Training Institute. Some examples are volunteering or working at a zoo/aquarium, veterinary office, or wildlife rescue/ rehabilitation center; experience with domestic or livestock animal care and/or training.

All applicants must complete a minimum of 16 general education quarter credits. These courses must be completed with a "C" grade or better. The courses must be taken at an Accredited College or University. High School classes do not apply toward the prerequisites. A previously attained associate's or bachelor's degree may be considered by the School for equivalency. Contact the DRCTI Admissions Coordinator for equivalency determination.



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**Prerequisite college-level courses for application to the MMCBT Program are:**

### **Required Courses**

### **Quarter Credit Hours**

**Biological Science**..... minimum of 4 or more quarter credit hours  
Introduction to Zoology and Zoology Lab OR Introduction to Biology and Biology Lab

**Communication**..... minimum of 3 or more quarter credit hours  
Public Speaking or Acting classes

**Behavioral Science**..... minimum of 3 or more quarter credit hours  
General Psychology

**Language**..... minimum of 3 or more quarter credit hours  
English Composition

**Mathematics**..... minimum of 3 or more quarter credit hours  
Statistics or College Algebra

### **How are students selected?**

Candidates who meet the program's prerequisite criteria and have their application completed in its entirety will be notified via email if they are selected to attend a virtual interview. Candidates who have a successful virtual interview are required to attend a prospective student interview on-site at Dolphin Research Center. Scheduled by the school, the interview process is done over a one to two-day period. Information about the meeting date and time will only be sent to the top prospective students. After all prospective student interviews are complete, applicants will be narrowed down. Admission to the MMCBT Program is based on grades, experience, education, presentation ability, and interpersonal skills. Above all, however, DRCTI is looking for those who we feel will successfully complete the program and have the most potential to be employed in the animal training field. During the selection process, students will be notified if they have been admitted or have not been selected.

### **Does the DRCTI accept foreign students?**

Currently, DRCTI cannot accept students from foreign countries. We will be working on obtaining our SEVP certification that is required by Homeland Security/ICE (Immigration and Customs Service) in order to accept any non-immigrant foreign students in the future.



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### How long is the program?

The program length is August through April/May for 36 weeks. This is an intensive immersion program that requires students to participate in programming and assignments for up to 60 hours a week (not including study time), including days, evenings, weekends, and holidays until the conclusion of the program.

### How much does the program cost?

Registration Fee:	\$ 150.00	(Non-refundable)
Tuition:	\$ 20,000.00	(Refer to Cancellation and Refund Policy)
Books/uniforms/materials:	\$ 200.00	(Non-refundable after issue)
<u>Graduation Fee</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>	(Due 2 weeks prior to graduation)
<u>Total Program Price:</u>	<u>\$ 20,380.00</u>	

Program pricing does not include food, transportation, personal living expenses, or housing. Students are also responsible for all fees associated with any physical examinations that may be required.

### Payment Schedule

The Course Registration Fee (\$150.00) must be submitted with the Student Enrollment Agreement (June 15-July 15).

After acceptance into the program, full tuition and all program/dormitory fees are due by the following payment plan:

Payment in Full (by August 15)      *Or the following payment plan*

\$2,000 initial payment due prior to the beginning of the course (by August 15). Thereafter students would pay 8 installments of \$2,275 at the beginning of each month throughout the program beginning Sept 1 through April 1 (\$18,000).

Payment may be by check, certified check, money order, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover).



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### **Is housing provided?**

The DRCTI Student Residence provides economical housing for up to 6 students throughout the entire duration of the MMBCT program. The student residence is owned by Dolphin Research Center and in the event of a vacancy; an intern may occupy the empty space. DRCTI Residence bedrooms are shared with two to three students per room. One private room is also available. The cost per month of these rooms is rated based on the amount of space shared and the value of the room. The shared bedrooms are composed of either bunk beds or lofts. All bedrooms will have desks and clothing drawer space. Closet space is also available. Two full bathrooms in the dorm are communal. The DRCTI Student Residence has a full kitchen, dining area, living room, study room, and laundry facilities. Housing costs include washer/dryer, water, electric, cable, internet services, and building maintenance services. Bed linens will be provided but students will be responsible for providing their own towels, blankets, and pillows. Lodging fees are based upon the number of people per room. Room selection is based on a first-come, first-serve basis dependent upon what date we receive your first tuition payment. However, while the DRCTI Student Residence is considered co-ed, bedrooms within the residence are not. Therefore, the DRCTI reserves the right to determine the best configuration so co-ed habitation of residence bedrooms is avoided. Students must apply for DRCTI student housing. Should a larger number of students apply for a specific room type that can be accommodated, those applicants will be subject to a lottery in order to determine room assignments. The DRCTI offers assistance in locating alternative housing. Students are not required to lodge at the DRCTI Student Residence during the program should they have alternative housing secured. Costs per room are the following:

3 person bedroom: \$250 per month due at the first of every month.

2 person bedroom: \$375 per month due at the first of every month.

Private bedroom: \$750 per month due on the first of every month.

DRCTI Student Residence applications will be included in student enrollment packages upon acceptance into the MMBCT program.

Students may apply for a work-study award which provides a \$150 per month discount from DRCTI Student residence rent (regardless of room assigned) in exchange for weekly cleaning responsibilities as outlined in the work-study award description. Please see the work-study award information for details.



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### What is the cancellation and refund policy?

Should a student's enrollment be terminated or canceled for any reason, all tuition refunds will be made according to the following refund schedule:

1. Cancellation can be made in person, by electronic mail, by Certified Mail a minimum of 60 days prior to the start of the program, or by termination by the School.
2. All monies, minus the registration fee will be refunded if the student cancels within three (3) business days after signing the enrollment agreement and making the initial payment.
3. Cancellation after attendance has begun, up through 40% completion of the program, will result in a Pro Rata refund computed on the number of hours completed in relation to the total program hours.
4. Cancellation or termination of a student from the program after completing more than 40% of the program will result in no refund. Please see the payment schedule options on page 27 of the catalog. Tuition is collected on a monthly basis throughout the program, not quarterly and the 40% completion is reflective of the entire program.
5. Termination Date: In calculating the refund due to a student, if applicable, the last date of actual attendance by the student is used in the calculation unless earlier written notice is received.
6. Refunds, if applicable, will be made within 30 days of termination of the student's enrollment or receipt of Cancellation Notice from the student.
7. In accepting the scholarship funds awarded by the Dolphin Research Center Training Institute for the Marine Mammal Behavior Care & Training (MMBCT) program, the student must agree to comply with additional conditions as outlined in the Scholarship Recipient Agreement. Conditions relating to cancellation and refund include:
  - \* Student will complete the MMBCT program at the Dolphin Research Center Training Institute within the program year for which the scholarship was awarded.
  - \* Student will attend all classes at all times barring verifiable hardships.
  - \* Student will maintain a grade of C or better in every class.
  - \* Student understands that the Dolphin Research Center Training Institute may choose to withdraw the scholarship award if he/she is unable to maintain satisfactory academic performance during the course of his/her studies at DRCTI.
  - \* Student understands that withdrawal or dismissal from the program will require full repayment of the scholarship received.
  - \* Student agrees that if he/she does not complete the program within the time frame specified, he/she will forfeit the scholarship and will repay all the scholarship funds to Dolphin Research Center Training Institute.



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### **DRCTI offer financial aid?**

#### **Kibby Memorial Scholarship**

The Dolphin Research Center Training Institute is pleased to offer the Kibby Memorial Scholarship each year to a deserving student. Kibby was a member of the DRC dolphin family for many years and was a great teacher to all of his human friends. After his passing in 2013, we wanted to honor his memory in a special way. A major donor learned of this need and generously provided an endowment for this purpose. Each year, one student will receive a scholarship of \$20,000.00. The award will be based on the greatest financial need out of the pool of students who apply for the scholarship. Recipients of the work-study program and Katlyn Leger Scholarship (\$2,000 towards tuition) are not eligible for this scholarship in order to maximize the financial resources available to all students.

#### **Work-Study**

The DRCTI offers a work-study program for up to two individuals choosing to reside at the DRCTI student residence. These individuals will receive a \$150 credit per month toward their student residence fees in exchange for routine cleaning of the student residence. The work-study program is based upon the highest financial need. Students who receive the Kibby Memorial Scholarship are not eligible for the work-study program so that the DRCTI is able to maximize the number of students receiving financial aid through the college.

\* More detailed information, scholarship, and work-study applications will be provided to all students accepted into the program.

#### **Katlyn Leger Memorial Scholarships**

The Katlyn Leger Memorial Scholarship fund was started by Katlyn's family in her memory after passing. Katlyn had visited Dolphin Research Center Training Institute not long before she passed and she was so excited to have the opportunity to join our family and graduate with a degree in marine mammal training. Unfortunately, she passed away before she got the chance to pursue her dream of working with marine mammals. Katlyn felt so strongly about the work done at DRC that her future plans were to continue her education in order to help make an impact on our planet. Her family wanted to make sure that, even after her passing, she was still able to make a different difference in the marine mammal community, and thus this scholarship was formed. This scholarship offers \$250.00 in tuition each month for 8 months. A second, separate scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 towards rent in the DRCTI Student Residence will be awarded to the student with the most need, but cannot be awarded to the awardee of the Katlyn Leger Tuition Scholarship.

#### **Other Financial Aid**

The DRCTI recently became an accredited institution by the ACCSC and we are currently taking steps to be able to accept government-backed student funding. Until the DRCTI is approved by the US Department of Education for this, students must obtain private funding.



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## **DISCLAIMER**

The Occupational Associate's degree offered is considered a "terminal degree", this may affect the transferability of credits from this institution.

## **How do I contact DRCTI with any questions?**

Mailing address:

Dolphin Research Center Training Institute

58901 Overseas Highway

Grassy Key, FL 33050

Telephone: (305)289-1121 ext. 215    Email: [DRCTI@dolphins.org](mailto:DRCTI@dolphins.org)

**DRC Training Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) #M072566 & licensed by the State of Florida Commission for Independent Education (CIE) #4766.**