

A yellow flag on a golf green at sunset. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden glow. The background shows a line of trees and distant mountains.

AND SOME PEOPLE
GET TO CALL THIS
WORK



TODAY'S GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

If you have a passion for working with nature, people and technological equipment, a love for the game of golf and making decisions concerning the environment, you may consider becoming part of the exciting world within the golf industry as a GCSAA superintendent.

Golf course management is a profession with a lot of variety. A golf course superintendent enjoys an attractive employment setting with frequent opportunities to be outdoors on the golf course.

Today's GCSAA superintendents are educated leaders with a broad base of facility management skills. They are trusted stewards of the land and oversee a facility's largest financial asset. The superintendent manages labor, time, materials and finances in a manner that is compatible with the environment, meets financial goals and enhances the enjoyment of the game.

Those who complete the Certified Golf Course Superintendent program administered by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America earn higher salaries and have a greater opportunity to advance in the profession. GCSAA superintendents will often go on to other areas of management, such as general manager of a facility.

GOLF COURSES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Did you know that more than 90% of an average 18-hole golf course provides critical green space in any community or watershed? An average 18-hole course is 151 acres that includes 95 acres of turfgrass, 26 acres of natural/native areas and 6.4 acres of water features (ponds, streams, wetlands etc.).

Turfgrass itself is environmentally friendly as it filters pollutants from runoff from neighboring properties, provides oxygen/sequesters carbon, provides for cooler temperatures in urban environments and provides ground cover preventing erosion. Golf provides many social benefits like recreation, socialization and jobs benefiting local economies. It also supports fundraising activities for many different causes including wildlife preservation, human issues, animal protection and environmental stewardship.



BENEFITS OF THE PROFESSION

EMPLOYER FRINGE BENEFITS



SUPERINTENDENT SALARIES



PREPARATION FOR A CAREER AS A GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Golf facilities are complex business operations. Superintendents need much more than just technical ability. Formal education in plant sciences, landscaping, business management, personnel administration and public relations is essential.

Students pursuing a career as a golf course superintendent complete courses covering both business and landscaping aspects of course management. Over 100 colleges and universities across the country offer certificate, bachelor's or associate's degree programs in golf course and turfgrass management.



GCSAA superintendents also are encouraged to learn to play the game of golf.

For more information about education and curriculum, scan this QR code.





ABOUT GCSAA

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, KS, the association provides education, information and representation to more than 17,000 members in more than 75 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.

Even after attaining a degree, continuing education is critical for keeping current on the advancements in management practices, regulations, new turfgrasses and equipment. GCSAA has set certain levels of competencies for GCSAA superintendents' varying career paths and provides comprehensive continuing education for GCSAA members to achieve their goals.

To find out more about the profession and see if this is the career for you, contact a superintendent at a nearby golf course and consider working there, or visit gcsaa.org for more information



WWW.GCSAA.ORG

