



Industry-Driven Training: Shaping the Future of Sawmilling

Professionals in the lumber and sawmilling sector who are ready to take the next step in their careers can elevate their business acumen and leadership potential through BCIT's Associate Certificate in the Business of Sawmilling. Developed with guidance from industry leaders, this flexible, part-time program empowers learners to build the strategic insight, confidence, and applied skills needed to move into supervisory and management roles.

Delivered fully online and taught by experts from across North America, the program equips students with a clear understanding of how economic trends, market forces, financial decisions, and operational strategies shape modern sawmill performance. Graduates leave with the practical knowledge and industry-relevant perspective to contribute at a higher level, drive improvements, and make meaningful business decisions within their organizations.

The Instructors Powering the Program

What sets this program apart is the calibre of instructors behind it: professionals with decades of combined experience in economics, finance, manufacturing optimization, fibre strategy, and global wood products markets. Together, they bring rich real world insight to help learners connect theory with the complexities of day to day mill operations.



Klaus Gundermann - Lumber Industry Economics

With over 25 years of finance and accounting experience in the forest sector, Klaus Gundermann brings a deep understanding of the economic forces driving the lumber industry. His career began with a logging and private forest landowner on Vancouver Island, followed by senior financial roles at Canfor Pulp, Mercer International, and Doman Building Materials Group.

He now serves as Controller at a Vancouver based AI startup. Klaus holds an MBA from the University of British Columbia and is a Chartered Professional Accountant. His combination of mill level experience and corporate financial leadership provides students with a grounded, analytical perspective on lumber markets and economic performance.



William Shen - Lumber Industry Economics

William Shen is the Program Head of Business Fundamentals Associate Certificate at BCIT. With 10 years of experience in finance and economic analysis, he teaches with a focus on how global financial markets intersect with resource-based industries.

Will holds a BBA from Simon Fraser University (Finance/Economics), an MA in Economics from the University of Toronto, and a BEd from the University of British Columbia. His passion for financial markets and economic systems helps learners understand the broader macroeconomic conditions that shape the forest sector.



Richard Wong - Finance Fundamentals for Sawmill Managers

Richard Wong is an experienced tax and accounting educator, teaching at BCIT, Douglas College, and the University of British Columbia. A Chartered Professional Accountant, Richard specializes in simplifying complex financial concepts for managers across technical industries.

In this program, he equips sawmill supervisors and aspiring leaders with essential financial literacy—from budgeting and cost analysis to understanding the financial drivers of mill performance.



Vahid Nasir - Process Reliability & Optimization for the Lumber Industry

Vahid Nasir is an Assistant Professor of Advanced Wood Manufacturing at Oregon State University and an expert in intelligent sawmilling systems. He holds a PhD in Wood Science from UBC and both a Master's and Bachelor's degree from School of Mechanical Engineering. His research focuses on intelligent lumber manufacturing, monitoring and quality improvement, smart sawmilling, and advanced manufacturing technologies. Vahid brings cutting-edge research in automation, sensing, and optimization, helping learners understand how modern mills enhance reliability, reduce waste, and increase productivity.



Murray Hall - Fundamentals of Sawmill Residuals

Murray Hall has extensive expertise in fibre supply technical issues, quality issues, and fibre supply strategy and tactics across the regions of BC, Alberta, and the US Pacific Northwest.

His 25-year long consultancy has included co developing both the BC Fibre Model and the Alberta Fibre Model, strategic tools widely adopted by government and industry to navigate beetle impacts, fibre scarcity, and long term supply planning.

Murray continues to provide industry-recognized support on investment, fibre quality, and fibre measurement systems. In this course, he helps students understand residuals not as waste, but as a crucial revenue stream and operational drivers in all wood manufacturing facilities.

Robert Fouquet - Lumber Sales and Marketing



Robert Fouquet brings over 40 years of experience in lumber, panels, and engineered wood products across North America, Europe, and Asia. Since 2021, he has been with Forest Economic Advisors, LLC (FEA), a leading forest products consulting and market intelligence firm, supporting market analysis, forecasting, and strategic advisory work. Previously, he held senior roles spanning sales, marketing, and technology at Ainsworth and Norbord, and earlier helped introduce Trus Joist MacMillan's engineered wood products into European markets.

Robert holds an engineering degree from École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Métiers (France) and a Master of Applied Science from the University of British Columbia (Canada). In the program, he draws on his international commercial background to help learners understand wood products value chains, product lines and specifications, and how marketing and sales execution—through product positioning, channel strategy, and customer engagement—contributes to company performance.

Build Your Future in North America's Evolving Sawmilling Industry

Whether you're an employer looking to upskill staff or an industry professional ready to advance your career, the Business of Sawmilling Associate Certificate offers a flexible, career-focused pathway. With expert instructors, practical business content, and strong ties to industry, students gain the knowledge they need to make informed decisions and drive value within their organizations.

Learn More & Apply for May 2026's intake: [BCIT Business of Sawmilling](https://www.bcit.ca/programs/business-of-sawmilling-associate-certificate-part-time-5125acert/)