



About the Lease Certificate Program

At long last, we are pleased to introduce the Lease Certificate Program. Designed to teach lease and title analysts and other land professionals in the oil and gas industry, the knowledge, and skills necessary to be a competent and effective lease and title analyst.

The oil and gas lease is the foundation of every oil and gas exploration and production company. Leases and titles are the greatest assets a company can own, and the role of the oil and gas personnel (lease and title analysts) who oversee and manage these documents is fundamental for the success of the company.

This six-month, six module (one month per module) course is taught by land management expert Alyce Hoge. All modules use a variety of teaching tools, including video lessons, field trips, class projects and assignments to engage the students and make the learning sticky.

The following are the six required courses to earn the certificate. Each module is estimated to comprise about 12 hours per module.

Module 1: Students are introduced to land management through a methodical approach in laying the foundational principles for land work. Topics include a general introduction to the oil and gas industry, the functions of the land department and roles, duties and responsibilities of the lease and title analyst. Finally, the module concludes with a course in the laws that impact the lease and title analyst with a specific emphasis on real property law.

Module 2: Understanding property and mineral ownership and transferring of title is critical for all those working in petroleum land management, especially for lease and title analysts. This module takes an in-depth and thorough look at the subject, studying land and mineral ownership in the U.S., differing types of property ownership, the rules surrounding ownership and conveying property, varying types of conveyances, testate and intestate successions, the many types of title transfers that can result in court actions, curing land title and the law governing oil and gas ownership and development.

Module 3: Since lease and title analysts are the primary personnel responsible for managing the oil and gas lease, their success becomes paramount to the success of the company. This module will teach the lease and title analyst how to manage the company's lease assets by providing a solid understanding of the common provisions and legal significance of an oil and gas lease. Students will better understand termination and savings clauses and will be able to evaluate the implications of modifying lease language.

Module 4: This module focuses primarily on the principles of U.S. laws as it relates to exploration in the oil and gas industry. The course begins with the rule of capture and its impact on oil and gas development then covers correlative rights, the accommodation doctrine, pooling and unitization, state regulations, case law and implied covenants of the oil and gas lease.

Module 5: The oil and gas industry uses a number of unique contractual arrangements to explore for, develop, produce and market oil and gas. This module includes a key overview of contract law including an introduction to and examination of the most common exploration agreements used for producing properties.

Module 6: In the final course of the certificate program, students will review state and federal laws that impact land management. As lease and title analysts, specific emphasis is placed on the leasing processes for federal lands including an examination of the provisions of the federal lease form and the steps to create and maintain a federal unit.

Upon the completion of all six modules with a grade of 70 or higher on all exams, students will receive their Lease Certificate from Midland College and Land Training.