



About the Petroleum Land Management Certificate Program

This six-month fully online course has trained thousands of land professionals allowing them to start or advance their career in land management.

Each module is about a month in length, and is estimated to take about 12 hours to complete. All modules use a variety of teaching tools, including webinars, lectures, videos, field trips, class projects and assignments to engage the students and make the learning sticky.

The modules are designed to mirror the steps a landman takes to secure a lease and develop properties:

- In **Module 1**, we cover the foundation of land work including the process of securing a lease, real property law, probate law, Louisiana law and an industry overview.
- In **Module 2**, we cover how to determine mineral ownership through a check of the county records. This is referred to as “chaining title” and you will learn how to read and interpret county records through an actual chaining title exercise. This is a hands-on approach to learning how to chain title.
- In **Module 3**, we cover the oil and gas lease including interpreting, negotiating and calculations. Habendum clause, Mother Hubbard clause, Savings clauses, pooling, royalty clauses are all covered in this module. We also discuss negotiation strategies including “divide and conquer” and “the “either/or” strategy. Finally, we look at calculating working interests, net revenue interests, gross/net acres and division order decimal interests.
- In **Module 4**, we take a hard look at oil and gas law and its impact on land management. Beginning with the “heaven to hell” theory of land ownership, to the rule of capture, dominant mineral estate, accommodation doctrine, we examine the rights of the mineral owner and the surface owner under the law. This module includes a review of landmark case law impacting oil and gas land management.
- In **Module 5**, we examine the role of contracts with respect to producing properties. Joint Operating Agreement, Farmout Agreements, Area of Mutual Interest Agreements, Drilling Contract Agreements including a discussion of non-consent penalties, back-in options, overriding royalty interests, working interests, options to convert, excess royalty and convertible override. All of these agreements and concepts are covered including what makes a contract legally enforceable. A MUST for every landman.
- In **Module 6**, we conclude with federal laws and their impact on oil and gas including environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act, CERCLA, RICRA as well as how to lease from the federal government and the many tax advantages provided in the federal IRS code for drilling oil and gas to supply our nation’s energy.

This program is designed to be a complete educational series, resulting in a certificate from Midland College, yet the modules are also available individually for those who wish to brush up on their skills.

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

Sample Syllabus for Module 1 of the PLM Program

INSTRUCTOR	Alyce Hoge ahoge@landtraining.net 832-298-7791
Course Name and Overview	<p><u>Module 1: Introduction to Land Management Practices</u></p> <p>Introduction to Land Management Practices gives students the foundation to understand the role of a landman and understand the laws and principles that govern the work of a land professional.</p> <p>In Week 1, we examine the role of the landman in the development of oil and gas wells including a focus on the American Association’s Code of Ethics.</p> <p>In Week 2, students are introduced to Real Property Law, Common Law and Louisiana law. Students will also be given an overview of the oil and gas industry as a whole and understand their role in the industry.</p> <p>In Week 3, students learn the foundation for describing property (legal descriptions) including a focus of its history and impact when leasing oil and gas. Students learn how to plat and calculate acreage using the Congressional Survey System.</p>
Objectives	<p>By the end of Module 1, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the role, duties and qualifications of a landman • Identify the Canons of Ethics of the AAPL, its purpose, and impact • Evaluate the benefits of Membership in the AAPL • Recognize and distinguish the various AAPL certifications and exams • Understand the Real Property Laws of the U.S. • Define the 5 Steps of Petroleum • Understand the History of the U.S. Land Survey Systems • Plat acreage using section, township and range in the Congressional Survey System. • Calculate acreage in property descriptions.
Reading Assignments: Oil & Gas Land Reference Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1: Ethics – pp. 123-130 • Week 2: Real Property & Louisiana Law pp. 9-23 • Week 3: Legal Descriptions - Chapter 3 pp. 31-45 • Week 4: Final Exam, Project Due
Forums	Discussion Boards or Forums are online chats or group discussions that are required upon the completion of webinars or DVD’s. Please post a comment in each forum and comment on the posts of three of your fellow students.
Project: Field Trip	In Module 1, students learn the importance of “field work” at a county courthouse by visiting their local courthouse and requesting information from the county clerk or a deputy clerk as to how their land records are organized. A report based on these findings including photographs, is due by the end of week 4.
Final Exam	Available online during the last week of the course. Must receive grade 70 or higher (overall) to pass the course.



To register, please visit the Midland College Petroleum Professional Development Center (PPDC) website at <https://mcce.midland.edu> > Oil & Gas Training > Land