

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Is Ornamental Horticulture for me?

The field is for you if you ...

- Enjoy working with plants indoors and/or outdoors.
- Have an interest in floral and landscape design.
- Are interested in working independently as well as with a group.
- Have an aptitude for science and mathematics as well as business.
- Are interested in our environment and its care.

What skills will I need for this field?

You will need to ...

- Be able to communicate clearly, both written and oral (use of Spanish is an advantage).
- Have a thorough working knowledge of plants in your care.
- Advise customers about plant needs and characteristics.
- Have an artistic flair for designing.
- Have a basic understanding of business and retail management.
- Know computer use and keyboarding skills.
- Be able to physically do the work required.
- Be able to maintain a positive attitude and display high standards of work ethics.

What is the work atmosphere like?

Positions may require outdoor or indoor work, or a combination of both. You could be involved in retail and/or wholesale businesses, including greenhouses, garden centers and nurseries. Some jobs may be seasonal, and peak workloads may occur at various times of the year, depending on your specialization. Your time could be spent designing, maintaining landscapes, growing plants, assisting customers or selling horticultural plants and supplies.

What are my degree options?

Certificates

Floral Shop Management
Greenhouse Management
Landscape and Turf Maintenance
Landscape Design and Construction
Nursery and Garden Center Management
Ornamental Horticulture

Associate's Degree

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's degrees are available by transferring to four-year colleges and universities. For example: Southern Illinois University, Illinois State University and Northwood University.

Professional Certification

Several areas offer qualification: Illinois Certified Nurseryman, Illinois Certified Arborist (Tree Care), Certified Landscape Technician and Certified Landscape Architect. College advisers can assist your selection of a specialized program and connecting educational paths to lead to certification.

What are my career opportunities?

Many different possibilities exist for those willing to obtain education and experience. Beginners can start as a landscape/nursery worker, moving to a landscape designer, greenhouse grower, or manager of a nursery, greenhouse or landscape company. Those willing to obtain further education can become a scientific specialist such as a horticulture consultant or entomologist. The job outlook is very good.

What can I do with these degrees?

If you have completed ...

High School Diploma

Floral Shop Clerk, Floral Shop Delivery Person, Garden Center Clerk, Greenhouse Growers Assistant, Landscape Laborer, Nursery Assistant

Associate in Applied Science Degree

Assistant Garden Center Manager, Assistant Nursery Manager, Athletic Field Manager, Floral Designer, Floral Shop Manager/Owner, Greenhouse Production Manager, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Horticulture Product Sales, Interiorscape Account Manager, Landscape Contractor, Landscape Designer, Plant Propagator, Sod Grower

Certificate

Floral Designer, Garden Center Sales, Golf Course Foreman, Greenhouse Grower, Interiorscape Technician, Landscape Designer, Landscape Laborer, Lawn Care Technician, Nursery Care Technician, Park Maintenance Employee

Bachelor's Degree

Arborist, Cooperative Extension Specialist, Educator, Entomologist, Floral Crop Marketer, Garden Center Management, Golf Course Superintendent, Horticulture Consultant, Horticulture Therapist, Landscape Architect, Marketing Specialist, Plant Breeder, Plant Physiologist, Researcher, Soil Conservationist, State Nursery Inspector, Writer

How can I prepare now?

Recommended courses ...

Math

Algebra (Applied Algebra Preferred), Business Math, Geometry

Science

Biology, Chemistry

Communications

Business Writing, Composition, General English (applied communications preferred), Speech

Occupational Electives

Floral Design, Greenhouse Crop Production, Landscape Design, Plant Propagation, and other specific courses

Recommended Supporting Electives

Advanced Biology and Chemistry, Business, Keyboarding, Spanish

What about my articulated credit?

Check with your high school coordinator to see if you are eligible for articulated credit at College of DuPage.

What should I take in my first semester at C.O.D.?

OH 1100: Introduction to Horticulture

OH 1101: Soils and Fertilizers

OH elective

ENG 1101: Composition I

BIO 1151: Principles of Biology I *or*

CHEM 1211: General Chemistry

Whom can I talk to for more information?

Business and Technology Division
(630) 942-2592

For more information on the Associate in Applied Science Degree curriculum, see your program coordinator, or go to www.cod.edu.