



Ornamental Horticulture

Associate in Applied Science Degree
Certificate of Proficiency

Programs **A6500**
A6510
A6520
Certificate **68700**
CIP 010603

Horticulture is a profession that combines the creativity of design with the knowledge of science and the practical experience of making projects successful. The Ornamental Horticulture A.A.S. degree program trains students in the areas of landscape design, floral design, landscape maintenance, nursery and greenhouse production, and turf maintenance.

Hands-on classes conducted in a complex of two greenhouses, surrounding gardens, and an extensive campus grounds are designed to prepare graduates to excel in a rapidly expanding horticulture industry. Excellent positions are available for trained professionals with strong backgrounds in the specialties covered at Mercer.

Successful graduates will be able to:

- identify, propagate, and care for at least 300 different woody and herbaceous plant specimens;
- implement a soils management plan using modern irrigation and nutrient control techniques;
- properly apply common pesticides and fertilizers to achieve optimum growing conditions for plants and crops;
- produce and manage common greenhouse crops;
- practice integrated pest management.

Some graduates enter the profession immediately upon graduation, securing employment in nurseries, greenhouses, garden centers, landscape firms, golf courses, flower shops, and a variety of other businesses. Others elect to transfer to four-year institutions such as Delaware Valley College, Temple University, and Rutgers University.

At Mercer, many students work in the industry while pursuing their degree as evening students. In addition to gaining broad knowledge through the Ornamental Horticulture A.A.S. degree core curriculum, students select from among three study concentrations:

The **Ornamental Horticulture** concentration (A6500) focuses on the production and use of plant material for aesthetic purposes. This concentration offers a wide variety of elective courses to choose from, so students can pursue the area of horticulture that most interests them.

Through the **Landscape Design** concentration (A6510), students learn how to measure a site, draw a base map, draw a design to scale, develop a plant list, color render the design, and work within a budget. Students also gain experience interviewing and presenting to clients.

The **Floral Design** concentration (A6520) teaches how to identify and order flowers used for designs, process flowers, price arrangements, make corsages and boutonnières, design various arrangements, work with a variety of materials, and gain experience doing more advanced work like wedding and funeral arrangements.

Another practical option for some students is the Certificate of Proficiency in Ornamental Horticulture, which emphasizes concentration in horticulture electives and preparation for direct entry into a career in horticulture. Credits earned can be applied toward the Ornamental Horticulture A.A.S. degree.

See also:

Mercer's Plant Science A.S. degree closely parallels a degree program in biology. With its emphasis on botany and plant materials, this program is especially suited for students planning to transfer into environmental and natural resource management programs at four-year colleges.



A.A.S. Curriculum

Code	Course (lecture/lab hours)	Credits
ENG 101	English Composition I (3/0)	3
BIO 101	General Biology I (3/3)	4
OHT 101	Plant Science (2/2)	3
CHE —	Chemistry elective ¹	3-4
MAT —	Mathematics elective ²	4
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ENG 102	English Composition II (3/0)	3
OHT 102	Ornamental Horticulture (2/2)	3
OHT 108	Soil and Plant Nutrition (3/3)	3
BIO 202	Woody Plants (3/3)	4
— —	General Education elective ³	3
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OHT 291	Ornamental Horticulture Cooperative Education I 3	3
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OHT 121	Herbaceous Plants (2/2)	3
OHT 219	Plant Propagation (2/2)	3
OHT —	Concentration elective	3
OHT —	Concentration elective	3
— —	General Education elective ⁴	3
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OHT 241	Equipment and Integrated Pest Management (2/2)	3
HPE 110	Concepts of Health and Fitness (1/2)†	2
OHT —	Concentration elective	3
OHT —	Concentration elective	3
— —	General Education elective ⁴	3
		65-66

Concentrations

Ornamental Horticulture Concentration Electives		
OHT 204	Plant Diseases (2/2)	3
OHT 232	Nursery Management I (2/2)	3
OHT —	Technical elective ⁵	3
OHT —	Technical elective ⁵	3
Landscape Design Concentration Electives		
OHT 201	Basic Landscaping and Planning I (2/3)	3
OHT 202	Basic Landscaping and Planning II (2/3)	3
OHT 204	Plant Diseases (2/2)	3
OHT —	Technical elective ⁵	3
Floral Design Concentration Electives		
OHT 207	Floral Design I (2/2)	3
OHT 208	Floral Design II (1/3)	2
OHT 226	Interior Landscape Design (2/2)	3
OHT —	Technical elective ⁵	3

¹ Approved Chemistry electives: CHE 100, 101, 105.

² College-level math course required. Select in consultation with an academic advisor.

³ Select course from either Social Science or Humanities general education categories.

⁴ Select course from the following general education categories: Social Science, Humanities, Historical Perspective, Diversity and Global Perspective. Spanish is strongly recommended.

⁵ Approved technical electives: OHT 201, 202, 204, 207, 208, 223, 226, 231, 232, 292; BIO 203, 204.

†HPE 111 is an acceptable alternative.

Certificate Curriculum

Code	Course (lecture/lab hours)	Credits
ENG 101	English Composition I (3/0)	3
OHT 101	Plant Science (2/2)	3
OHT 102	Ornamental Horticulture (2/2)	3
OHT 291	Ornamental Horticulture Cooperative Education I 3	3
— —	Science elective ¹	3-4
— —	Technical electives ²	17-18
		32-34

¹ Select from BIO 101, 114, 203, 204; CHE 101, 105.

² Select from all OHT courses; BIO 202; CHE 100.