Horticulture

The Program

Horticulture involves the study of: soils, plants, design, construction, management, crop and food production methods, restoration techniques, and how these all interact with water, light, weather, climate, insects, fungi, bacteria and more!

Sustainability and organic methods are top priorities in Cabrillo’s Horticulture Department located on 11 acres overlooking the Monterey Bay.

You will receive training in three main areas of specialization: landscape horticulture, nursery & crop management and organic agriculture. Cabrillo’s horticulture department is CCOF certified for in-ground vegetable and cut flower production and vegetable transplants.

Participation in our extensive hands-on labs, student-assisted nursery and organic farm field at the top of the campus, plus lecture courses prepares you for success in a wide variety of horticulture-related careers.

In Class you will:

- Develop landscape and planting plans for real world clients
- Develop an Organic System Plan for taking your farm organic
- Prepare and install irrigation system designs and learn troubleshooting strategies
- Explore computer applications used in business and landscape design
- Grow food crops in controlled environments using hydroponics techniques
- Learn to identify plants
- Learn to diagnose plant problems using skills from pest management classes
- Augment your skills if you’re already working in fields such as retail or wholesale nurseries, organic flower and food production, and the landscape professions.
- Broaden your existing technical horticulture skills.

Depending on your major, you might graduate with an A.S. degree, a Certificate of Proficiency or a Skills Certificate. We strongly recommend you meet with a Cabrillo counselor who will help you figure which option is right for you.

Employment

Many graduates work in nurseries and landscape businesses as propagators, growers, retail & wholesale sales associates, landscape architects, contractors, designers and landscape managers. We are expanding our focus to include non-conventional food production methods including organic and hydroponics. Working in restoration landscape and arboriculture are also options.

Approximately half of our students start or have already started their own businesses by the time they graduate and over 50% of our courses transfer to CSU.

Visit cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture for more information
The Profession

Enjoy working outdoors and/or growing plants?
Like working with your hands?
Got an eye for fine detail?
Interested in sustainable practice in developing landscapes and growing food & ornamental crops?

Horticulture professionals are in high demand—especially those who have been well-trained, communicate well, have excellent technical skills, and are current on the latest information and technologies in the diverse horticulture industry.

Come explore horticulture as a career option and gain valuable field experience by working closely with professional propagators and greenhouse managers, landscape architects, contractors, restoration ecologists, integrated pest specialists and organic farm owners from the horticulture industry.

“Cabrillo creates a community with an excellent staff, top-notch facilities, and endless hands-on learning experiences that directly apply to both the classroom and the working world. This program has given me the tools to attain the future that I’m striving for.”

— Chris Teuteberg