



2024-2025 Academic Year

Ornamental Horticulture

**Associate in Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.)
Certificate of Proficiency**

B-STEM Division
Business, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
[609.570.3482](tel:609.570.3482) admiss@mccc.edu

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.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- 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 University, 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 (HORT.ORN.AAS) 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 (HORT.LAND.AAS), 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 (HORT.FLOR.AAS) teaches how to identify and order flowers used for designs, process flowers, price arrangements, make corsages and boutonnieres, 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.

DEGREE CURRICULUM

2024-2025 Academic Year

HORT.ORN.AAS
HORT.LAND.AAS
HORT.FLOR.AAS
CIP 010603

The course sequence below represents a recommended example of how this degree program can be completed in two years, presuming a Fall Term start and satisfaction of all Developmental Studies (foundation courses) requirements and prerequisites. Actual approaches toward completion depend on each student's anticipated transfer institution, career objectives, or other individual circumstances.

Students are encouraged to meet regularly with an academic advisor or Success Coach to consider options, establish plans, and monitor progress.

Code	Course (lecture/lab hours)	Credits	To Do This Semester
FIRST SEMESTER			
CSW 100	College Success and Personal Wellness (2/0) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Some exemptions apply. Consult academic advisor for details.	2	✓ Meet with your faculty advisor to complete an academic plan. Make sure you are aware of any course prerequisites you

ENG 101	English Composition I (3/0)	3	<p>may need to take, and how long it will take to complete your degree.</p> <p>✓ Use your online tools: Check your MercerMail daily, utilize features of Office 365, and get to know Student Planning.</p> <p>✓ Take advantage of Learning Centers or Online Tutoring to support your studies and assignments.</p>
OHT 101	Plant Science (2/2)	3	
MAT —	Mathematics elective	4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In consultation with an academic advisor, select from MAT 140 (if not intending to transfer) or 146 (if intending to transfer to a baccalaureate program). 		
— —	Social Science general education elective	3	

SECOND SEMESTER

BIO 202	Woody Plants (3/3)	4	<p>✓ Transitioning to college can be challenging. Meet with your Success Coach for guidance and support.</p> <p>✓ Apply for financial aid by May 1.</p> <p>✓ Contact professors with questions and use their office hours to develop a connection. Talk with them to get the inside scoop on how your profession works.</p> <p>✓ Be sure to visit the Career Services office to explore jobs, internships, and career information and get help with your resume and other career tools.</p> <p>✓ Apply for Continuing Student scholarships at www.mccc.edu/m-scholarships.</p>
ENG 102	English Composition II (3/0)	3	
OHT 102	Ornamental Horticulture (2/2)	3	
OHT 108	Soil and Plant Nutrition (3/3)	4	

SPRING, SUMMER, or FALL

[OHT 291](#) Ornamental Horticulture Cooperative Education I 3

THIRD SEMESTER

[OHT 121](#) Herbaceous Plants (2/2) 3

[OHT 219](#) Plant Propagation (2/2) 3

[OHT](#) — **Concentration elective** 3

[OHT](#) — **Concentration elective** 3

— — [Humanities general education elective](#) 3

- Spanish (SPA) strongly recommended.

✓ Keep in contact with each professor and your faculty advisor. Make sure you are on track to graduate on time.

✓ Work with [Career Services](#) to formulate plans for after you've earned this degree.

✓ Develop team and leadership skills by getting involved in [activities and clubs](#).

✓ Apply for Continuing Student scholarships at www.mccc.edu/m-scholarships.

✓ Manage your stress! Take advantage of the MCCC pool, [Fitness Center](#), free yoga and Zumba. Reach out for [counseling](#) or other support if you need it. Your [Success Coach](#) can connect you with resources.

FOURTH SEMESTER

[OHT 241](#) Equipment and Integrated Pest Management (2/2) 3

[OHT 292](#) Ornamental Horticulture Cooperative Education II 1

[OHT](#) — **Concentration elective** 3

[OHT](#) — **Concentration elective** 3

✓ Get ready to start your career! Begin the job application process.

✓ Discuss your career plans with your faculty

— —	<u>Social Science or Humanities general education elective</u>	3	advisor. S/he can help you transition successfully.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish (SPA) strongly recommended. 		
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Code	Course (lecture/lab hours)	Credits
Ornamental Horticulture CONCENTRATION electives		
<u>OHT 204</u>	Plant Diseases (2/2)	3
<u>OHT 232</u>	Nursery Management I (2/2)	3
<u>OHT</u> —	Technical elective	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select from OHT 201, 202, 204, 207, 208, 212, 226, 231, 232. 	
<u>OHT</u> —	Technical elective	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select from OHT 201, 202, 204, 207, 208, 212, 226, 231, 232. 	

Landscape Design CONCENTRATION electives		
<u>OHT 201</u>	Basic Landscaping and Planning I (2/3)	3
<u>OHT 202</u>	Basic Landscaping and Planning II (2/3)	3
<u>OHT 204</u>	Plant Diseases (2/2)	3
<u>OHT 212</u>	Landscape Construction (2/2)	3

Floral Design CONCENTRATION electives

OHT 207	Floral Design I (2/2)	3
OHT 214	Floral Design II (2/2)	3
OHT 226	Interior Landscape Design (2/2)	3
OHT —	Technical elective	3

- Select from OHT 201, 202, 204, 207, 208, 212, 226, 231, 232.

CERTIFICATE CURRICULUM

2022-2023 Academic Year

HORT.CERT
CIP 010603

Credit-bearing certificate programs can serve as gateways to earning an associate degree. Students are encouraged to consult the program coordinator, an academic advisor or Success Coach to explore such opportunities.

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
— —	Science elective	3-4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select from BIO 101, 114, 203, 204; CHE 101, 105. 	
— —	Technical electives	17-18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select from all OHT courses; BIO 202; CHE 100. 	

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