

When and Where are classes held?

All classes are held at the Chicago Botanic Garden . Core classes are programmed on weekday evenings and weekends to accommodate working professionals and adults with busy lifestyles.

How large are the classes?

ART Classes are limited to 16 registrants.

How much will this cost?

Classes average \$12 per instructional hour

How long will this take me?

We offer students a flexible approach to their education allowing them to finish a program at their own pace. Some programs can be completed in 2 years with up to 5 years for completion. Students may enroll in a single course to address a specific need or interest; build a sequence of courses to meet individual needs; or earn a certificate of completion for a specific program of study.

Where do I start?

Botanical Drawing 1 is a prerequisite for most core courses, but may be taken simultaneously with other courses.

I missed Botanical Drawing 1 this semester?

For students convenience, this pre-requisite is offered once every semester. Depending on when you enter the program there is often an alternate course that you may enroll in.

A Sample 2 year course of Study

Year 1:

Botanical Drawing 1, Winter/Spring

Pastels, Winter/Spring

Botany for Botanical Artists, Summer

Composition, Summer

Color Mixing, Autumn

Art Elective, Autumn

Year 2:

Botanical Drawing 2, Winter

Watercolor 1, Spring

Outdoor Sketching, Summer

Expressive Watercolor, Summer

Pastels 2, Autumn

Art Elective, Winter

Art Elective, Summer

Art Elective, Autumn

Portfolio Review

Each ART elective course is typically worth 18 instructional hours. Classes are formatted with CEU's.

*Example: 1.8 CEU's = 18 elective hours
Credits are recorded by attendance.*

Certificates are awarded once a year at our fall graduation ceremony and reception. Students must register with the office of continuing education for graduation and certificate completion.

Certificate of Merit Programs

Come Grow with us!

Certificate of merit programs provide students specialized, high-quality educational programs without the need to be enrolled in a college or university.

Many students enrolled in certificate of merits consider themselves "lifelong learners," hoping simply to become better gardeners, while others are professionals working to improve their expertise and marketability.

What is a certificate?

A Certificate signifies that a student has successfully fulfilled all the requirements of a prescribed series of courses. Certificates are awarded each year, and have been used by many individuals to prepare for master level art courses and workshops or to simply add depth to their portfolio and resume for professional aspirations.

What programs do you offer?

The School has certificate programs in

- Botanical Art
- Garden Design
- Professional Gardener Level 1 & 2
- Ornamental Plant Materials
- Healthcare Garden Design
- Midwest Gardening
- Horticultural Therapy

Botanical Arts

www.chicagobotanic.org/certificate


CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
JOSEPH REGENSTEIN, JR. SCHOOL

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT PROGRAMS

Botanical Arts

Certificate of Merit Program (ART)

Engage your senses, discover hidden talents and explore a more personal relationship with plants and the environment in this studio art program. Courses in drawing, painting, and color theory will help you develop your technical skills and further your understanding of art and the creative process.

This program is your unique opportunity to focus on the wonders of nature, learn from accomplished artists and teachers, and enjoy the Garden as your studio.

Who Should Participate

People wanting to nurture their creativity; improve their artistic skills and experience plants, nature, and our shared environment in new ways. No prior art experience is needed.

Program Design

The Botanical Arts program has two tracks of concentration, the **Traditional Botanical Arts Certificate** and the **Expressive Botanical Arts Certificate**.

The Traditional track provides training for a student wishing to improve their work in a technically detailed manner. This program of study incorporates traditional methods and materials that will enhance the skills of an artist accurately portraying artistic and scientific images.

The Expressive track allows a student to explore art outside of the traditional media and techniques. After satisfying core courses, students in the Expressive track will complete their coursework by a combination of their choosing in oil, pastel or expressive watercolor to expand their artistic pallet.

Program Requirements

The certificate program consists of 7 core courses, designated required courses within each track, your choice of 60 instructional hours of elective courses, and a portfolio review. You may select any combination of elective courses, tailoring the program to your personal learning objectives and interests. ART electives are designated as such in the course description.

To earn a certificate, a grade of “S” sufficient and at least one portfolio-quality finished piece is required to pass each course. If you are not interested in the certificate, you do not need to concern yourself with grades.

All requirements for the certificate must be completed within five years of the start date of your first course in the program. The final juried comprehensive portfolio review required for the certificate will include one piece from each course. There is no separate enrollment for the program.

ART CORE COURSES

Botanical Drawing 1 *
Botanical Drawing 2
Botany for Botanical Artists *
Composition
Color Mixing for Botanical Artists *
Watercolor I
Outdoor Sketching *
Portfolio Seminar and Review **

Traditional Track Required Courses

Pen and Ink I
Pen and Ink II
English Watercolor Technique

Expressive Track Required Courses

Choice of 3:

Expressive Watercolor
Pastels
Pastels 2
Oil Painting I
Oil Painting 2

Sample ART Elective courses

Color in Nature
Advanced Watercolor Workshop

* No prerequisite

** With Program Manager approval

The mission of the Chicago Botanic Garden is to promote the enjoyment, understanding and conservation of plants in the natural world. Through the Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School, the professional expertise, and talents of the Garden’s horticulturists and educators are shared with students of all levels.

For more information regarding certificate programs or upcoming classes please contact Amelia Simmons Hurt at 847-835-8293, email certificateprogram@chicagobotanic.org or www.chicagobotanic.org/certificate

To register for classes or for more information about the Joseph Regenstein Jr., School please call the registrar at 847-835-8261 or online at www.chicagobotanic.org/school

All certificate students are asked to provide an email address for program and course updates, confirmation letters, supply lists and general student correspondence.