

department of GARDEN DESIGN



The Chicago Botanic Garden's master plan and early gardens were envisioned by world renowned landscape designers John O. Simonds, considered by many to be the first landscape designer to understand the beauty of Mid-western native plants, and Geoffrey Rausch who has designed more than 50 botanical gardens and arboreta. More recent additions such as The Great Basin (Oehme van Sweden & Associates), Spider Island (Michael Van Valkenburgh) and the brand-new Esplanade (Dan Kiley and Peter Morrow Meyer), are examples of premier 20th and 21st century landscape architecture. Courses offered through the School range from introductory to advanced, from site analysis and construction to garden art and history, from residential to health-care institutions. Students learn the principles of landscape design and how design relates to their environment, gaining perspectives from the Garden's heralded instructors, many of whom are registered landscape architects.

Instructors:

Susan M. Boothe, Barbara Geiger, Gordon Hayward, Robert Hursthouse, Rory Klick, Gary Lehman, Valerie Gerdes Lemme, Douglas Macdonald, Greg Pierceall, Gene Rothert, Scott Scarfone, R. Thomas Selinger, Paul Siciliano, Jeffrey True

GARDEN DESIGN CERTIFICATE OF MERIT PROGRAM (GDC)

This unique curriculum provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as a garden design professional. It features a solid foundation in plantsmanship and science-based gardening techniques, both of which are essential to creating successful gardens. The program develops and refines planting design abilities, focusing on the unique role of plants in shaping space, creating a sense of place, and fostering well-being throughout the year and in a spectrum of settings, from private residences and commercial properties to public gardens, municipal plantings and streetscapes.

Who Should Participate

- Aspiring professional garden designers
- Gardeners and garden designers seeking professional development

Program Design

After completing Botany 1 all remaining core courses may be taken in any order, providing there are no further prerequisites. For a certificate, a grade of at least 70 percent must be earned for each course and for your portfolio, which must be submitted as you near program completion. You can prove proficiency for up to 20 percent of the coursework for the program by passing proficiency exams or providing college transcripts indicating grades of at least 70 percent for similar courses. All requirements must be completed within seven years of the start date of your first course in the program.

There is no separate enrollment for the program. Just take your first course and you are on your way. Please contact Amelia Simmons-Hurt at (847) 835-8293 or school@chicagobotanic.org if you have questions or comments about the program or courses.

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GDC REQUIRED COURSES	PREREQUISITES
Botany 1 (B)	None
Botany 2 (I)	Botany 1
All OPC core courses	Botany 1
Choice of two Gardening Techniques courses:	
Gardening Techniques: Session A (I)	Botany 1
Gardening Techniques: Session B (I)	Botany 1
Gardening Techniques: Session C (I)	Botany 1
Gardening Techniques: Session D (I)	Botany 1
Plant Health 1 (I)	Botany 1
Plant Health 2 (I)	Botany 1, Plant Health 1
Hardscape Basics (I)	Botany 1
Discovering Design (I)	Botany 1
Experiencing Design (I)	Botany 1, Discovering Design
Early Garden History (I)	Botany 1
Modern Garden History (I)	Botany 1, Early Garden History
Graphics (I)	Botany 1
Project Basics (I)	Botany 1
Planting Design (A)	Botany 1, 4 OPC core courses, Project Basics
Soils and Water (I)	Botany 1
Project Management (A)	Botany 1, 6 OPC core courses, Planting Design
Garden Design Studio (A)	Botany 1, Early Garden History, Modern Garden History, Project Basics, Planting Design
Guided Industry Experience (A)	