Why study Botany and Ethnobotany at UH Mānoa?

The world is green!

Plants, algae, and fungi are fundamental components of the earth’s terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. Hawai‘i is world renowned as a premier site to study the ecology, evolution, and conservation of this botanical diversity. The Botany Department’s curriculum takes advantage of the islands’ extraordinary environment, flora and cultures to provide an exceptional educational opportunity. In 2013 and 2014, six of the department’s students were recognized by the Botanical Society of America as ranking among the top 50 in the country.
Degrees & Majors

Undergraduates can earn a BS or BA degree in Botany or a BS in Ethnobotany. Graduate students can earn an MS or a PhD in Botany.

Educational background and preparation

Botany is a rigorous science, and high school courses in biology, chemistry and mathematics will prepare students for a smooth transition to a university education.

Many clubs and organizations offer opportunities to learn about plants and links between plants and culture. And plants are everywhere—they are always available for study!

Learning opportunities

The curriculum provides broad-based training, from traditional field methods to the latest molecular techniques.

Courses cover ecology, evolution, systematics, conservation, and human uses of organisms ranging from cyanobacteria to algae, and mushrooms to trees.

Learning opportunities extend beyond the classroom; students are strongly encouraged to participate in laboratory and field research with our faculty.

Advising, support, and careers

All students receive guidance from an academic advisor and are encouraged to discuss research and career opportunities with any of our faculty.

The Botany Department annually offers scholarship support to about 20% of our majors. Graduates successfully pursue a variety of career options, ranging from graduate study, to jobs in government agencies, NGOs, consulting agencies, and botanical gardens.