



Botany, B.S.

Cal Poly Humboldt is an incredible place to study botany. Our faculty are dedicated to teaching excellence and hands-on learning, instructing courses that utilize specialized equipment, impressive natural collections, laboratory facilities, and the ecologically diverse field sites of our region. Extensive opportunities for research prepare our students for a wide range of careers in biology. Come be inspired!

Experience Your Learning

Surrounded by a wide range of habitats, from coastal to mountain wilderness, Cal Poly Humboldt is located in the perfect environment for field research. The “natural laboratories” of our diverse ecosystems will inspire you and guide your learning, with many opportunities for hands-on learning throughout your undergraduate career.

Participate in the Among Giants Humboldt Immersion to discover biodiversity in animals, plants, and microbes in the local environment.

Hands-on work with vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens, fungi, and algae provides fundamental experiential training for students at the organismal level.

Our botanical collections are the best in the entire CSU system. The Dennis K. Walker Greenhouse collection contains more than 1,000 species of plants in 187 families. The Cal Poly Humboldt Vascular Plant Herbarium (HSC) consists of 105,000 specimens, with an emphasis on the flora of northwestern California. The collection offers excellent opportunities to study the rich diversity of our native flora, as well as non-native and invasive species.

X Did you know?

- **First-year students take part in Among Giants, our place-based learning community, where you'll venture into redwood forests, mountains, dunes, and marshes to study animals, identify ferns, and examine the soil.**
- **The Greenhouse Club invites students from all majors to participate in greenhouse activities that include propagating plants, practicing integrated pest management, and basic horticulture skills around the greenhouse area.**
- **The Biology Seminar is a research seminar series with national and international participation.**



Academics & Options

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Learn and appreciate the biological processes unique to plant life with a dedicated learning community and the best botanical collections in the CSU system. Biological Sciences is a thriving community at Humboldt, where you'll have the opportunity to meet people and apply your knowledge to real world issues.

Minor

- Botany Minor



Careers

Employment in the life sciences is expected to grow due to recent advances in genetic research, advances in biological technology, and efforts to conserve the environment.

- Herbarium Curators
- Naturalists
- Plant Physiologists
- Technical Writers
- Plant Ecologists
- Environmental Consultants
- Botanists
- Horticulturists
- Science Librarians
- Plant Pathologists



Cal Poly Biology gave me a solid foundation in biology spanning the tree of life. The coursework was rigorous and, I would argue, unparalleled in its organismal breadth. Importantly, I was also given opportunities to apply what I learned in my courses to scientific research. This prepared me for graduate school and a career as a scientist, which I would never have considered if not for my mentors in the department."

Kelly Matsunaga ('12, Botany), Assistant Professor and Curator, Kansas Biodiversity Institute