



Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars

CODES is a competitive general education program for incoming freshman who are Black, Latinx, Pell-eligible, or first-generation. CODE Scholars take their education beyond the walls of the classroom and into the St. Louis region. Scholars work alongside community partners to research the local manifestation of a global problem and share their work publicly. CODES is an innovative approach to transdisciplinary problem-solving, with content from fields such as history, literature, anthropology, biology, and sociology.

CODES at Missouri Botanical Garden

The combined scholarly expertise of ethnobotany and conservation biology, with the historical resources of Henry Shaw's papers and the specimens in the herbarium, make MOBOT an ideal site for the transdisciplinary problem-solving central to CODES. The cohort working with MOBOT will have an inclusive theme of reparative justice, an approach centering on those who have been harmed, focusing on healing and repairing past harms to prevent them in the future. CODE Scholars will work over a period of two years in research teams with Michelle Bonner, Robbie Hart, and Andrew Colligan to explore the institution's history of enslavement, retrace the erasures of Black and Brown residents who lived in the area that is now Shaw Nature Reserve, and study the indigenous knowledge and cultural context underlying specimens in the Herbarium. CODE Scholars can help MOBOT tell these stories with intentionality and sensitivity to welcome more diverse guests to the Garden. Commitments on the part of MOBOT include: attendance at orientation events, the on-site work of students during the fall of year two, four check-ins with students each semester, attendance at student showcases, Scholar visits to the Garden and research center, and access to papers and specimens.

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