



Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.)

Landscape Architecture is a licensed professional discipline concerned with the planning and spatial design of landscapes. Its practitioners work at all scales—from that of the home garden to corporate sites, parks, greenways, communities, mines, national parks and forests— to plan, design, and specify construction for changes to land and water areas. These changes may include ecological restoration of disturbed land, human development and settlement of land, or further improvements and beautification of occupied land. The work of landscape architects is to organize and give character to the future managed or constructed landscape, bringing the same skills to the shaping of land, and service to the client, as an architect brings to a building.

Education

At the core of the profession, knowledge gained in the arts and sciences enables landscape architects to recommend appropriate physical forms of human engagement with the landscape. To understand the interactions between people and land, students of landscape architecture learn to understand the nature of the earth's past and present physical and biological systems and their behavior, together with the nature of humans as individuals and communities. Coursework in behavioral, natural, and social sciences, design theory and history, spatial design communication, data processing technology, construction practices and administration, and professional practice provide students with the skills, knowledge, and values to plan, design, and specify construction of landscapes.

Views

Embodied in the ethics of landscape architecture is the ecological notion of the deep interrelatedness of all living things on the planet with the environments that sustain them, including humans and their settlements. Landscape architects therefore tend to take the "long view" of most issues associated with human land use, looking well into the past and the future as a guide to recommending landscape change. The long view, of course, applies at all scales.

Practice

Most landscape architects find employment in firms offering professional planning and design services to corporations, governments, institutions, and individuals, including residential homeowners. In these firms there is often a high degree of collaboration with natural and social scientists, architects, engineers, city planners, and others in the preparation of plans and designs. Landscape architects also represent the interests of land owners in planning, designing, and specifying construction of improvements to their land. They observe construction progress to assure that it is proceeding according to plan, advising the owner of discrepancies in quality and quantity of the contracted work. Landscape architects may be self-employed in these activities. A great many also find work in the public sector in municipal and regional open space, parks or planning agencies, national parks, national forests, and other federal land management agencies. Those who go on to pursue a second professional degree at the master's or Ph.D level will also find academic and research employment opportunities.

MLA I

First professional degree, three-year curriculum. This curriculum engages students with no landscape architecture or related background.

Year 1

Fall

LAND 610 Topics in Garden Design Studio
LAND 510 Virtual Design Methods
LAND 361 Digital Methods
LAND 392 Seminar

Spring

LAND 620 Topics in Park Design Studio
LAND 520 Geographic Informational Systems
LAND 120 History of the Design Landscape
500 level Ecology course

Year 2

Fall

LAND 630 Topics in Urban Design Studio
LAND 360 Basic Landscape Design and Construction Studio
500 GIS/NR
500-600 level focus course

Spring

LAND 640 Major Landscape Change Studio
LAND 363 Advanced Landscape Site Engineering
BZ223/HORT221 Plant Identification
500-600 level focus course

Year 3

Fall

LAND 670 Studio
LAND 365 Landscape Contract drawing and Specifications
LAND 698 Research
500-600 level focus course(s)

Spring

LAND 670 Studio
LAND 449 Professional Practice
500-600 level focus course(s)

MLA II

Second professional degree, two-year curriculum. This curriculum engages students with an accredited undergraduate landscape architecture degree.

Year 1

Fall

LAND 6** Studio
LAND 510
500-600 level focus course(s)

Spring

LAND 6** Studio
LAND 520
LAND 698
500-600 level focus course(s)

Year 2

Fall

LAND 6** Studio
500 GIS/RS
500-600 level focus course(s)

Spring

LAND 6** Studio
500-600 level focus course(s)