Landscape Architecture

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Landscape architecture is an environmental planning and design profession of broad scope concerned with the creation, protection, restoration, and management of landscapes. Landscape architecture is founded on an awareness of our deep connections to the natural world and how people and their work are part of the web of life. The profession is also very attentive to how places serve human needs and enable the sustainable social and economic life of cities and other landscapes. A healthy society rests on a commitment to sound landscape design, planning, and conservation that respects the land, its processes, its integrity—and that of human-ecological processes, helping to fulfill human potential.

Both a science and an art, landscape architecture involves creative decision-making based on scientific knowledge of natural processes coupled with awareness of historical, cultural, and social dynamics. The profession also makes intensive use of technologies for landscape construction and environmental management—digital graphics, geographic information systems, and computer-aided design. These are applied to making richly supportive places for people and ecosystems that are beautiful and healthy, responding to human needs and local natural and social systems.

The Department of Landscape Architecture is built on the 19th-century legacy that landscape architecture is a design and planning profession with responsibilities to ourselves, society, the past, and the future. The program combines professional understanding and skills with a liberal-arts education.

As a profession, landscape architecture includes design at many scales, ecologically based planning activities, analysis of environmental impacts, and detailed development of land and sites. As an academic discipline, it provides an opportunity for personal development through environmental problem-solving, graphic and oral communication, and project-oriented study.

As a profession, landscape architecture includes design and planning at many scales, including ecologically based decision-making, analysis of environmental impacts, urban design, ecological restoration, service to disadvantaged communities, detailed development of land and sites, and many other problems. As an academic discipline, it provides an opportunity for personal development through environmental problem-solving, graphic and oral communication, and project-oriented study in which small groups of students work with instructors to address contemporary problems within a defined area.

Computers in the Curriculum

Digital tools have become prevalent in the profession of landscape architecture. Although campus computer laboratories and facilities are available to students, they are heavily used, and access is limited. The Department of Landscape Architecture requires its students to purchase or have unlimited access to a personal computer with a powerful capacity to work with very large graphic files. Refer to the websites for the department and the School for Architecture and Allied Arts (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/archive/2015-2016/aaa) for details.

Faculty

Elisabeth Chan, associate professor (design representation, design theory). BA, 1993, Hampshire; MLA, 2000, Cornell. (2001)

Arica Duhrkoop-Galas, instructor (plants, planting design, landscape construction). BA, 1998, Portland State; CE, 1999, Cambridge; MLA, 2005, Oregon. (2010)

Mark Eischeid, assistant professor (landscape history, design theory, landscape systems). BS, 1994, Stanford; MLA, 2000, California, Berkeley; MFA, 2010, Edinburgh. (2014)

Christianne Enright, instructor (landscape planning, landscape analysis, geographic information systems). BA, 1984, California, Santa Barbara; BLA, 2003, MLA 2006, PhD, 2013, Oregon. (2013)

Anne Godfrey, instructor (landscape media and arts, design process and theory). BA, 1997, Carleton College; BLA, 2002, MLA, 2004, Oregon. (2008)

Kenneth I. Helphand, professor (landscape history, literature, and theory). BA, 1968, Brandeis; MLA, 1972, Harvard; Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects. (1974)

David Hulse, Philip H. Knight Professor of Landscape Architecture (alternative futures analysis, river restoration and management, landscape ecology). BSLA, 1981, Colorado State; MLA, 1984, Harvard. (1985)

Bart Johnson, professor (ecological restoration and design, land planning, complexity modeling). BS, 1987, Cornell; MLA, 1992, PhD, 1995, Georgia. (1995)

Harper Keeler, instructor (civic agriculture, landscape biodynamics, urban farm director). BLA, 1995; MLA 2011, Oregon. (2010)

Ronald J. Lovinger, professor (planting design theory, landscape transformations, landscape as art form). BFA, 1961, Illinois; MLA, 1963, Pennsylvania; reg. landscape architect, Oregon, Pennsylvania. (1965)

Dennis “Whitey” Lueck, instructor (horticulture, field studies, landscape biodynamics). BS, 1974, Pennsylvania State; MS, MA, 1980, Oregon State. (2005)

Robert Z. Melnick, professor (landscape preservation, research methods, historic and cultural landscape analysis). BA, 1970, Bard; MLA, 1975, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry; Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects. (1982)

Robert G. Ribe, professor (landscape planning and analysis, visual resource management, landscape economics). BS, 1977, California, Riverside; MS, 1981, MA, 1987, PhD, 1990, Wisconsin. (1988)

Deni Ruggeri, associate professor (urban design, transportation design, land planning). MLA, 2001, Politecnico di Milano; PhD, 2009, California, Berkeley. (2010)

Brad Stangeland, instructor (landscape construction, computer-aided design, professional practice). BLA, 1983, Oregon; reg. landscape architect, Oregon. (2003)

Roxi Thoren, associate professor (urban design, landscape history, microclimate analysis). BA, 1996, Wellesley; MArch, 2001, MLA, 2002, Virginia. (2004)

Emeriti

Jerome Diethelm, professor emeritus. BArch, 1962, Washington (Seattle); MLA, 1964, Harvard; reg. architect and landscape architect, Oregon. (1970)

The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

- **Bachelor of Landscape Architecture**
- **Minor**

Undergraduate Studies

The curriculum in landscape architecture leads to a professional degree of bachelor of landscape architecture (BLA). The five-year program, accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board, combines general preparation in the arts and sciences with a focus on environmental-design studies. The program's goal is to produce a visually literate, technically skilled, ecologically knowledgeable, and environmentally responsible designer, planner, and graphic artist capable of playing a central, professional role in the evolving landscape.

In recognition of the integrated and comprehensive nature of environmental planning and design, BLA students are encouraged to pursue opportunities to collaborate on planning and design problems with students in architecture, art, community planning, and other disciplines.

Curriculum Options

The curriculum is a well-defined sequential path toward the degree. Electives vary according to the interests, goals, and experience of each student and are chosen with the help of faculty advisors. Departmental electives reflect the need to provide a variety of environmental subjects and to introduce the rapidly expanding number of career areas in the profession. Program objectives provide a solid base of essential skills, tools, and knowledge in landscape design and planning. Program flexibility allows each student to emphasize such topics as ecological restoration and design, sustainable cities and land systems, landscape aesthetics, natural resource analysis and planning, land conservation and development, urban design, restoration of waterways, renewal of agricultural lands, private and public agency professional practice, environmental impact assessment, landscape history and preservation, and environmental design research methods.

The undergraduate program balances exposure to the many facets of landscape architecture with the expectation that growth and specialization will occur at the graduate level and in professional apprentice and internship programs.

Curriculum Structure

The undergraduate curriculum consists of the following interrelated areas:

- Planning and design
- Subjects
- Electives

Planning and Design

Studio courses focus on the development and communication of solutions to site and other environmental problems through specific physical-design proposals. This area addresses the physical-spatial implications of planning and management policies, client needs, and programs. Tutorial studio work is the integrative heart of the curriculum.

Studio courses focus on the development and communication of solutions to site, neighborhood, city, transportation, watershed, and regional environmental and social problems. Students work closely with an instructor to analyzeand create specific landscape design and planning proposals. This area addresses the physical-spatial implications of planning and management policies, client needs, and programs. Tutorial studio work is the integrative heart of the curriculum.

Subjects

Six subject areas are essential foundations for the planning and design program: landscape architecture technologies and professional practice, plant materials, landscape analysis and planning, the history and theory of landscape architecture, urban design, and landscape architectural media. Required course work in history, theory, media, and technologies includes alternative choices to allow each student to tailor an individualized educational program with the help of an advisor.

Electives

This area, which includes general university requirements, provides for personal choice in selecting additional course work in in landscape architecture, architecture, art, planning, and more generally in arts and letters, social science, and science.

Preparation

Students planning to major in landscape architecture should prepare by beginning studies in the following areas:

Environmental Awareness

Courses in ecology, biology, botany, geology, environmental science, and geography help begin the process of understanding the complex interrelationships and interdependencies of people and the environment.

Human Behavior

Courses in art history, anthropology, sociology, history, government, psychology, political science, cultural geography, and related subjects help explain human needs, values, attitudes, and activities and are useful in preparing for the design of physical places.

Visual Language Skills

Courses in drawing, painting, photography, film, design, art history, and related subjects help develop perceptual skills, cultural understanding, and the ability to explore and communicate ideas graphically.

Full-time students planning to transfer into the department are urged to take 12 credits of lower-division landscape architecture courses as freshmen, much like the courses listed below as required of freshmen already admitted to the major. If a transfer student is admitted to the major, he or she may expect to transfer without loss of time or credit into the second year of the BLA program, whether or not they have already taken any landscape architecture courses.

Students interested in the BLA program should apply to the university by January 1 and to the department by January 15. Applicants wishing to gain priority should apply to the BLA by November 1. Another round of admissions occurs on a space-available basis with an application deadline of March 1. Include with the online application the following:

1. Letter of intent describing pertinent background information, interests, goals, and aspirations
2. Portfolio of creative work
3. Three letters of recommendation from people able to assess the applicant's academic and creative abilities and potential contributions
4. Transcripts of previous college work
5. A recent writing sample, preferably from an academic or employment setting

Inquire at the Department of Landscape Architecture, its website, or at the university's Office of Admissions for more detailed information.

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Requirements

Requirements for the BLA degree (including university requirements) total 220credits. Required courses separate from university requirements are distributed as follows:

Planning and Design

First Year		**Credits**
No studio courses are required of first-year students in the major		
Second Year		
LA289	Landscape Architectural Design [1,2]	12
Third Year		
LA439	Landscape Architectural Design and Process [1,2]	12
Fourth Year		
LA489	Site Planning and Design [1]	12
Select one of the following: [3]		6-7
PPPM419	Community Planning Workshop	1-5
ARCH484	Architectural Design	6
LA489	Site Planning and Design	6
LA408	Workshop: [Topic] (Design) [4]	1-21
LA409	Practicum: [Topic]	1-21
Fifth Year		
LA490	Comprehensive Project Preparation	3
LA494	Land Planning and Design	6
LA499	Comprehensive Project	8
	Total Credits:	**59-60**

1. Two studios.
2. Transfer students typically enter the program in the second year.
3. An approved studio in another UO summer program may be substituted.
4. Summer only.

Subject Courses and Other Electives

Courses Required of First-Year Students Admitted to Major [1]		
Select three of the following:		12
ARCH201	Introduction to Architecture	
LA227	Introduction to Landscape Architecture	
LA260	Understanding Landscapes	
LA333	Photography and Environmental Values	
LA337	Landscape Field Work: [Topic]	
LA375	Contemporary American Landscape	
LA390	Urban Farm	
Landscape Architectural Technology and Practice		12
LA362	Landscape Technologies I	
LA366	Landscape Technologies II	
LA417	Computer-Aided Landscape Design	
Professional practice course		
Plants in the Landscape and Ecosystems		12
LA326	Plants: Fall	
LA327	Plants: Winter	
An approved basic ecology class, if not taken as a freshman:		
BI130	Introduction to Ecology	
ENVS202	Introduction to Environmental Studies: Natural Sciences	
BI307	Forest Biology	
GEOG323	Biogeography	
Landscape Analysis and Planning		12
LA413	Analyzing Landscape Systems	
LA440	Introduction to Landscape Planning Analysis	
LA441	Principles of Applied Ecology	
History and Theory of Landscape Architecture		16
LA260	Understanding Landscapes	
ARH477–478	History of Landscape Architecture I-II	
An approved landscape theory course:		
LA333	Photography and Environmental Values	
LA375	Contemporary American Landscape	
ARCH407	Seminar: [Topic]	
LA407	Seminar: [Topic] (Landscape Design Theory)	
LA443	Land and Landscape	
ARCH450	Spatial Composition	
LA484	Landscape Perception	
Landscape Architectural Media		6
LA350	Landscape Media	
LA352	Digital Landscape Media	
Media and Landscape Technology Workshops		6
ARCH408	Workshop: [Topic] (Architecture Media)	
LA408	Workshop: [Topic] (Advanced Computer-Aided Landscape Design)	
LA408	Workshop: [Topic] (Drawing)	
ARCH410	Experimental Course: [Topic] (Oregon BILDS [Building Integrated Livable Designs Sustainably])	
LA415	Computers in Landscape Architecture	
ARCH423	Media for Design Development: [Topic]	
ARCH424	Advanced Design-Development Media: [Topic]	
LA450	Advanced Landscape Media	
LA459	Landscape Technology Topics	

Other Electives [2]		32-44
HIST273	Introduction to American Environmental History	
SOC304	Community, Environment, and Society	
GEOL308	Geology of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest	
GEOL310	Earth Resources and the Environment	
GEOG322	Geomorphology	
LA328	Plants: Spring	
PPPM331	Environmental Management	
PPPM340	Climate-Change Policy	
GEOG343	Society, Culture, and Place	
ENVS345	Environmental Ethics	
GEOG360	Watershed Science and Policy	
LA410	Experimental Course: [Topic] (Civic Agriculture)	
ARCH430	Architectural Contexts: Place and Culture	
ARCH431	Community Design	
LA433	Japanese Garden	
ARCH435	Principles of Urban Design	
ARCH436	Theory of Urban Design I	
PPPM440	Land-Use Policy	
PPPM442	Sustainable Urban Development	
PPPM445	Green Cities	
LA448	Urban Landscape: [Topic]	
ARH463	Native American Architecture	
LA465	Landscape Ecology	
GEOG471	North American Historical Landscapes	
GEOG465	Environment and Development	
Total Credits		**108-120**

1 First-year students are encouraged to take a basic ecology course.

2 Electives totaling 44 credits for students who transferred into the major; 32 credits for students admitted to the major in their first year. These elective courses may include any extra courses taken from any of the lists found under first-year courses, history and theory of landscape architecture, or media and landscape technology workshops.

Minor in Landscape Architecture

The department offers a minor in landscape architecture subject to the following:

1. Students must complete and submit to the department the application to the minor program. Applicants are notified when their applications have been approved. The application includes a curriculum work sheet with the requirements in effect at the date of acceptance
2. Enrollment in the minor program may be limited if the department's courses are overenrolled. If the department is unable to accommodate additional students, it may suspend admission to the program until space becomes available
3. Courses required for the minor are open to other university students with instructor's consent. Minor candidates may be given preference on course waiting lists over nondepartmental students. Students in the minor should inform instructors when asking permission to enroll

Minor Requirements (26 credits)

LA260	Understanding Landscapes	4
Choose one from the following: [1]		4
LA337	Landscape Field Work: [Topic]	
LA413	Analyzing Landscape Systems	
Plants course chosen from the subject area (see Subject Areas table)		4
Landscape design arts course chosen from the subject area (see Subject Areas table)		4
Optional courses in landscape architecture from Subject Areas table		10
Total Credits		**26**

1 Once one of these courses is completed, the other course may be taken to fulfill another requirement if it appears in the corresponding lists for that requirement. The same applies for repeating the same course if the topic changes.

2 Students may take any combination of courses in the Subject Areas table. Only one term of Urban Farm (LA390) or one design studio may be applied to the minor.

Subject Areas

Plants, Applied Ecology, and Landscape Analysis		
LA326	Plants: Fall	4
LA327	Plants: Winter	4
LA328	Plants: Spring	4
LA337	Landscape Field Work: [Topic]	1-4
LA390	Urban Farm	2-4
LA410	Experimental Course: [Topic] (Civic Agriculture)	1-5
LA413	Analyzing Landscape Systems	4
LA440	Introduction to Landscape Planning Analysis	4
LA441	Principles of Applied Ecology	2-6
LA465	Landscape Ecology	4
Landscape Design Arts, History, and Theory		
LA227	Introduction to Landscape Architecture	2
LA289	Landscape Architectural Design (if space is available)	6
LA333	Photography and Environmental Values	4
LA375	Contemporary American Landscape	4
LA408	Workshop: [Topic]	1-21
LA433	Japanese Garden	4
LA443	Land and Landscape	4
LA448	Urban Landscape: [Topic]	1-4
ARH477–478	History of Landscape Architecture I-II	8
LA484	Landscape Perception	4
Landscape Technologies		
LA459	Landscape Technology Topics	2-4

Check with the department for information about new subject-area courses in the curriculum. Seminars and workshops may often be applied to the minor.

- **Master of Landscape Architecture** (p. 5) **(first professional master's)**
- **Master of Landscape Architecture** (p. 6) **(postprofessional master's)**
- **Doctor of Philosophy**

Graduate Studies

The department offers master- and doctoral-level programs in the field of landscape architecture. At the master's level, the department makes a distinction between first professional master's students and postprofessional master's students. First professional master's students hold an undergraduate degree other than an accredited bachelor of landscape architecture (BLA, BALA, or BSLA) and are working toward the master of landscape architecture (MLA). Postprofessional master's students hold an accredited bachelor of landscape architecture and are working toward the completion of the advanced postprofessional MLA degree. Students with an accredited bachelor or architecture (BArch) or other accredited professional environmental design degree often earn a postprofessional MLA with some additional requirements, or they may opt to earn a first professional MLA degree with waivers of some course requirements, decided on a case-by-case basis.

Students may enroll in joint MLA degree programs with the master of architecture (MArch) and master of community and regional planning (MCRP) programs with integrated and coordinated degree requirements. Arrangements may be made through academic advisors in the two departments.

First Professional Master's Program

Although requirements and time to degree may vary with each student, the following options represent typical situations:

Students with a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture

Students entering with a four-year or nonaccredited degree in landscape architecture spend two to three years completing the first professional MLA. The first year focuses on course work required for the degree. The second year focuses on completing electives related to the master's project and the project or thesis itself.

Students with Other Degrees

Students who have no background in landscape design and planning can expect to spend a minimum of ten terms earning an accredited, first professional MLA.

The department recognizes that first professional master's candidates have extremely varied backgrounds and may have special requirements. Based on undergraduate courses, background in design-related disciplines, and work experience, these students may be exempt from a limited number of requirements. Students who want to replace or waive requirements must show equivalent competency in those areas, typically through course work or professional experience.

Program Components of the First Professional MLA

Planning and Design (42 credits)

This program allocates significant faculty resources to project-oriented instruction and has a long history of success at design studio education. Regular faculty members offer or consult in studios and participate in the midterms and weeklong end-of-term reviews of student work. Studio projects typically increase in scale and complexity over the course of the degree program. Students must take seven studios in this subject area.

Subject Courses

Technology and Practice (12 credits). Covers computer-aided design, professional practice, site engineering, landscape materials and detailing, irrigation, and other topically oriented technologies courses. The sequence has strong ties to a required technical studio and design-build courses offered by the architecture department.

Plants (8 credits). The sequence of fall and winter plants courses emphasizes knowledge of native plants, ecological planting design, local plant communities, and horticultural plant materials. The sequence integrates plant identification with introductory and advanced planting design. Students may choose electives from this area, including courses on Japanese gardens, planting design, spring plants, or subjects related to the department's urban farm.

Landscape Analysis and Planning (16 credits). Landscape planning courses cover history, theories, and methods related to basic landscape analysis, geodesign, ecological planning, regional planning, ecological restoration, alternative futures, Oregon's land-use planning system, critical issues related to land conservation and development, and introductory and advanced landscape ecology. The department offers courses in geographic information systems that teach the industry standard, ArcGIS. Students may choose electives from this area for an area of concentration.

History and Theory (16 credits). Courses include the history of landscape architecture, design theory, urban design, landscape perception, and landscape preservation. Students may choose electives from this area for an area of concentration.

Landscape Architectural Media (12 credits). Courses cover the use of computer graphics software, computer aided design software, hand drawing, computer three-dimensional modeling software, and other techniques for representing, manipulating, and communicating landscape designs and plans.

Area of Concentration (16 credits). Students take four courses from any department at the university, selected with their advisors, to develop specialized knowledge and skills typically related to the topic of their master's project or thesis.

Research and Master's Project (22 credits)

Students take two courses in research methods and project development and one mentored research development course. A faculty member serves as a project chair. The MLA project is completed during the third year for first professional master's candidates in a two-term master's clinic studio. This independent project of high academic standard presents original work that contributes to the body of knowledge in landscape architecture and/or demonstrates an advanced capacity to solve design and planning problems through critical inquiry and strong problem-solving analysis. The topic may be selected from a range of theoretical to practical design issues. Projects must include a written component, which sets out the problem, goals and objectives, methodology, findings, and conclusions of the project. Students must complete Landscape Research Methods I (LA620), Landscape Research Methods II (LA621), and Research Proposal Development (LA695), and at least 12 credits of Master's Project (LA699) or Thesis (LA503).

First Professional Master's Curriculum

Planning and Design		
LA508	Workshop: [Topic]	6
LA539	Landscape Architectural Design and Process [1]	12
LA589	Site Planning and Design [1]	18
LA594	Land Planning and Design [1]	6
Subject Courses		
Technology and Practice		
LA362	Landscape Technologies I	4
LA366	Landscape Technologies II	4
LA517	Computer-Aided Landscape Design	2
Professional practice course		2
Plants		
LA326	Plants: Fall	4
LA327	Plants: Winter	4
Landscape Analysis and Planning		
LA513	Analyzing Landscape Systems	4
LA515	Computers in Landscape Architecture	4
LA540	Introduction to Landscape Planning Analysis	4
LA541	Principles of Applied Ecology	4
History and Theory		
ARH477–478	History of Landscape Architecture I-II	8
LA607	Seminar: [Topic] (Landscape Architecture Literature)	2
LA608	Workshop: [Topic] (Understanding Landscapes)	2
An approved landscape theory course chosen from the following:		4
LA617	Introduction to Landscape Architecture Theory	
ARCH507	Seminar: [Topic]	
ARCH550	Spatial Composition	
Landscape Architectural Media		
LA350	Landscape Media	2
LA352	Digital Landscape Media	2
Workshops in media and landscape technology chosen from the following:		8
ARCH508	Workshop: [Topic] (Architectural Media)	
LA508	Workshop: [Topic] (Advanced Computer-Aided Landscape Design; Drawing)	
ARCH523	Media for Design Development: [Topic]	
ARCH524	Advanced Design-Development Media: [Topic]	
LA550	Advanced Landscape Media	
LA559	Landscape Technology Topics	
Research and Master's Project		
LA601	Research: [Topic]	2
LA620–621	Landscape Research Methods I-II	4
LA699	Master's Project	16
orLA503	Thesis	
Area of Concentration Electives		
Four courses approved by advisor		16
Total Credits		**144**

Postprofessional Master’s Program

The two-year graduate program leading to the master of landscape architecture (MLA) degree is intended for students prepared to do advanced work in the field. Students entering the postprofessional MLA program must have a professionally accredited bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture or architecture.

Students with professional landscape architecture degrees typically spend two years in residence satisfying course requirements. Students with professional architecture degrees may spend an additional term, decided on a case-by-case basis.

The postprofessional MLA program seeks to prepare the student for advanced understanding, competence, and responsibility in promoting harmonious human-land relationships through private or public practice or teaching at the university level. Many graduate students have the opportunity to learn and practice teaching skills as paid teaching assistants and graduate teaching fellows in the department. Some graduates are offered faculty positions throughout the world. The program takes advantage of regional and university resources through landscape projects, internships, and visiting professionals, while it provides a beneficial base of support and ideas in the department. The department recognizes the importance of building a community for graduate education characterized by serious and rigorous inquiry, self-direction, and opportunities to work closely with teachers and peers in an active design and planning enterprise.

A central aspect of the postprofessional MLA program is the student’s concentration on studies and original work in one of five areas of landscape architecture: design theory, landscape ecology, landscape history, urban design, and landscape planning. These areas are broad enough to include many particular research problems for master’s projects and professional practice. While these concentration areas are naturally related, each involves a different set of skills and understanding developed through departmental courses and focused elective course work outside the department. The five concentration areas are those in which faculty members, due to their academic training and professional and research experience, are best equipped for collaboration with graduate students.

Concentration Areas

Design Theory

The transformation and enhancement of outdoor environments to more beautiful, expressive, and supportive places involves developing creative artistry, applying an understanding of places and their evolutionary possibilities, and thinking clearly with sensitivity to peoples’ needs and values. This concentration is intensive in design criticism and in theories of design process, ideas, and content.

Landscape Ecology

This rapidly evolving discipline focuses on how landscape pattern, process, and change interact to create land mosaics that maintain the rich diversity of life and the foundations for human well-being. Understanding key links between spatial and temporal patterns and flows of organisms, materials, energy, and information at a variety of scales is

the basis for maintaining or restoring landscapes that embody ecological integrity and cultural vitality.

Landscape History

This dimension of landscape architecture seeks to understand every landscape as a unique place in time and content. It combines an understanding of how landscapes have evolved as cultural and vernacular environments as well as how they have evolved as deliberate expressions of social norms and cultural aesthetics through history and among cultures. These understandings are applied to theories of design and planning as well as to the preservation of culturally rich landscapes.

Landscape Planning

Analyzing large landscapes and directing their management and land-use patterns to meet social and environmental ends requires an understanding of land tenure, use traditions and institutions, and knowledge of the science and values inherent in regional natural resources and human activities. For this analysis, computer geographic information systems are used to synthesize information and generate landscape plans. Examples include river management, wetlands preservation, public forest plans, urban growth management, scenic resource management, and regional ecological enhancement.

Urban Design

Many projects undertaken by the profession entail study of the form and function of cities at many scales to design and integrate systems of transportation, recreation, infrastructure, nature conservation, and buildings. These projects often involve articulation of multiple goals for city evolution and sustainability, data analysis and conceptual mapping of city forms and districts, intensive public-participation processes, and the design of solutions on a variety of scales, from whole city regions to parks and plazas.

Postprofessional Master's Curriculum

Planning and Design		
LA594	Land Planning and Design	6
Landscape Analysis and Planning		
Choose one of the following, or a course approved by advisor: [1]		4
LA513	Analyzing Landscape Systems	
LA515	Computers in Landscape Architecture	
LA540	Introduction to Landscape Planning Analysis	
LA541	Principles of Applied Ecology	
History, Literature, and Theory		
Choose one of the following, or a course approved by advisor: [1]		4
ARCH530	Architectural Contexts: Place and Culture	
ARCH540	Human Context of Design	
ARCH550	Spatial Composition	
LA584	Landscape Perception	
LA607	Seminar: [Topic] (Theory)	
LA617	Introduction to Landscape Architecture Theory	
Concentration Area		
Advisor-approved courses in one area of concentration from list above		20
Research Methods and Master's Project [1,2]		
LA601	Research: [Topic]	2
LA620–621	Landscape Research Methods I-II	4
LA699	Master's Project [3]	16
orLA503	Thesis	
Total Credits		**56**

1. Courses used to satisfy Analysis, Research, and Theory requirements above may not be used to satisfy Concentration Area requirements.
2. Before enrolling in Master's Project (LA699), the student must obtain department approval of a project proposal and recruit a chair from among landscape architecture faculty members. Near the completion of the project, the student presents the results of the project to faculty members and students and gains final approval of the project's documentation from the faculty committee.
3. Completed during the second year.

Admission

Online applications to the first professional or postprofessional master's programs should contain the following:

1. Completed application form and fee
2. Three letters of recommendation from people able to assess the applicant's strengths and potential contributions
3. Personal statement describing pertinent background information, interests, goals, and aspirations
4. Portfolio of creative work or other work indicative of relevant abilities
5. Writing sample such as a research paper or a technical report
6. Transcripts of previous college work

The deadline is January 15. Late applications may be considered. Applications from all disciplines are welcome. Students whose first language is not English must submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores of at least 577 on the paper-based test, 233 on the computer-based test, or 90 on the Internet-based test. General university regulations governing graduate admission are in the **Graduate School** section of this catalog.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The doctoral program in landscape architecture offers advanced study with a focus on ecological landscape planning and design, which encompasses a range of spatial scales and cultural contexts. An ecological approach focuses on how landscape pattern, process, and change interact to create land mosaics that maintain the diversity of life and the foundations for human well-being. The doctoral program is designed to engage these issues through spirited analysis, critique, and prescription of landscapes in Oregon, the United States, and the world.

Because the profession is broad and diverse, the landscape architecture PhD pursues robust development of academic, analytical, creative, and integrative capabilities that can continue to grow throughout subsequent careers. Accordingly, the program emphasizes the following:

- Advanced expertise and understanding in a focused topic
- The ability to form integrative conceptual models of landscape issues, problems, and solutions
- The ability to critically analyze deficiencies in knowledge about the field and identify needs for new, original knowledge

- The ability to form and investigate operationally bounded questions
- The ability to independently design and execute a complete, intensive research project
- The ability to completely document a research project with high-quality writing and illustrations

The integrative nature of landscape design as a science and an art entails development of innovative models and methods for design, education, and research. The program offers students the opportunity to develop skills as innovative educators by working with faculty members as teaching assistants, and to teach courses under faculty guidance. The close and supportive relationships among scholarship, teaching, professional growth, and artistic achievement foster excellence in design education, research, and practice. Scholars follow many routes, and the program provides substantial flexibility to tailor students' programs to individual needs.

Course of Study

Completion of the program requires demonstrated excellence through original contributions to the field. Indicators of a doctoral student's achievements are successful completion of the oral and written comprehensive exams and successful completion and defense of a dissertation that substantially advances knowledge in a chosen area of expertise.

Through a series of four required courses in landscape architecture literature, theory, and research, PhD students learn how to conduct both qualitative and quantitative studies of landscapes and the processes that shape them. After completing these core courses, advanced studies in methodology, tailored to suit career intentions, are required. Advanced methodological preparation in quantitative research occurs through statistical and spatial analysis as well as case-study analysis, design criticism, content analysis, historical interpretation, and environment-behavior observation.

The program prepares students to understand and apply appropriate methods of inquiry, and to deepen their understanding of the nature and role of rigorous scholarly inquiry in landscape architecture. Course requirements are designed to provide both depth and breadth of knowledge in landscape architecture, and to draw on the frameworks and methodologies of related disciplines that support the student's dissertation research.

Length of Program and Steps to Completion

A PhD in landscape architecture requires a minimum of three years of full-time graduate work, including one year of residency. Depending on background and research goals, students can expect to complete the degree in three to six years, with a norm of four to five years.

The student's program of study depends substantially on his or her prior degrees.

Degree Held	Credits to Expect to Complete for PhD
MLA or MArch	68
BLA or BArch only	80
Master's degree without professional environmental-design degree	86

Classes for the doctoral degree include design-studio experience and subject-area courses to provide a foundation in landscape architecture sufficient to support a student's goals, research, and advanced course work.

At the completion of course work, normally the end of the second year, each student submits a written comprehensive exam, followed by an oral comprehensive exam. The examination committee will consist of three faculty members, two from landscape architecture and one from an outside department or program, who will prepare and administer the written and oral comprehensive exams. Once students have passed both comprehensive exams, they will be advanced to candidacy. Each student must submit the dissertation proposal within three terms of the exams. A student then forms a dissertation committee consisting of four members, with a minimum of two from landscape architecture and at least one from another field related to the student's area of research. The dissertation committee must approve the student's written dissertation proposal following a scheduled, public proposal presentation before the student undertakes the dissertation.

Some credit requirements may be waived or satisfied through transfer credits which must not have previously been applied to any graduate or undergraduate degree. No more than 15 credits may be transferred. Successful completion of the doctoral program is a matter of proven excellence through substantial, original contributions to the field and not the accumulation of a specific number of credits.

Requirements

A student's program of study is developed with the major professor and a second doctoral advisor.

PhD Required Courses, Work

Theory, Research, Investigation [1]		
LA620–621	Landscape Research Methods I-II	8
LA695	Research Proposal Development	2
LA601	Research: [Topic]	6
Doctoral colloquium		2
Outside analytic-synthetic courses [2]		4-12
Electives [3]		
Advanced Electives: 500-level and above landscape architecture courses in design theory, history, criticism, preservation, planning, and ecology [4]		12
Supporting Courses: courses typically taken outside of landscape architecture [4]		12
Dissertation		
Dissertation course		18
Total Credits		**68**

1. A student entering with a master's degree but without a professional environmental-design degree should expect to take a minimum of 18 additional credits in landscape architecture.
2. A student may be required to take more than 4 credits in analytic-synthetic courses in other departments.
3. A student entering the program with a BLA or BArch but no master's degree takes an additional 12 credits of electives.
4. Selected in consultation with major professor

Admission

Students must either have previously completed a professional degree in landscape architecture or architecture (e.g., BLA, MLA, BArch, MArch) or hold a master's degree (e.g., MA, MS) from a related field, and show clear evidence of academic experience and goals aligned with landscape architecture. A commitment to research along with a demonstrated record of research achievement are important criteria. Applications to the program must include the following items:

1. A personal statement assessing the applicant's background, strengths, interests, and aspirations in the field of landscape architecture. This should include why one wishes to come to the University of Oregon for doctoral work, and a description of a proposed area of concentration, course of study, and a prospective major professor
2. A portfolio of creative and scholarly work including at least one writing example showing evidence of critical thinking in a research context
3. Three letters of recommendation, including two from academic sources
4. Official transcripts from all universities or colleges attended
5. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
6. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores (575 paper or 233 computer, minimum) for all nonnative speakers

Applications mailed to the department office for entry fall term are due in early February. General university regulations governing graduate admission are in the **Graduate School** section of this catalog.

Courses

LA196. Field Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable twice for a maximum of 6 credits.

LA199. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA227. Introduction to Landscape Architecture. 2 Credits.
Exploring the background and scope of the profession: its history, ethics, goals, skills, topics, achievements, and evolving challenges in making healthy, functional, and beautiful places.

LA260. Understanding Landscapes. 4 Credits.
Perception, description, and explanation of landscapes as environmental sets, as biophysical processes, and as cultural values.

LA289. Landscape Architectural Design. 6 Credits.
Study of places, their use, and how they evolve. Fundamentals of environmental awareness, social factors, and small-scale site design; abstract design and elementary graphic techniques. Repeatable.

LA326. Plants: Fall. 4 Credits.
Characteristics, identification, and design uses of deciduous trees, shrubs, vines, and ground covers. Emphasis on identification and appropriate use in landscape design.

LA327. Plants: Winter. 4 Credits.
Characteristics, identification, and design uses of ornamental conifers and broad-leaved evergreen trees, shrubs, and ground covers.
Prereq: LA 326.

LA328. Plants: Spring. 4 Credits.
Characteristics, identification, and design uses of flowering trees, shrubs, vines, and ground covers; emphasis on synthesis of fall, winter, and spring.
Prereq: LA 327.

LA333. Photography and Environmental Values. 4 Credits.
Explores major movements in landscape photography through the lens of cultural perceptions and policies about landscape and environment.

LA337. Landscape Field Work: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable. Direct examination and appraisal of the function, form, content, and composition of example landscapes in relation to ecological, cultural, legal, technical, aesthetic, and economic objectives.

LA350. Landscape Media. 2-4 Credits.
Development of freehand drawing and visualization skills; exercises on line, tone, texture, and color for plan, section, and perspective drawings. Repeatable.

LA352. Digital Landscape Media. 2-4 Credits.
Introductory survey and skill development in a range of basic computer graphic tools used in landscape architecture. Includes image processing, computer drawing, modeling, and drafting. Repeatable once for maximum of 8 credits.
Prereq: LA 350.

LA362. Landscape Technologies I. 4 Credits.
Develops understanding of contours, contour manipulation, and site engineering methodologies in the design of places; fundamentals of inclusive design, stormwater management, earthwork, and design development.

LA366. Landscape Technologies II. 4 Credits.
Consideration of aesthetic and engineering properties of materials and processes of landscape construction; communication of design intent through documentation including sources and costs.
Prereq: LA 362.

LA375. Contemporary American Landscape. 4 Credits.
Evolution of the contemporary American land-scape as an expression of American culture.

LA390. Urban Farm. 2-4 Credits.
Experimentation with food production in the city; rebuilding urban soils; farm animal-plant relationships; nutrient cycles. Cooperative food production and distribution; use of appropriate technologies. Repeatable.

LA399. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA401. Research: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA405. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA406. Special Problems: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA407. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA408. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable. Concentrated programs of study on special topics. Regular offerings include Fire Ecology and Management, Landscape Design.

LA409. Practicum: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Supervised field laboratory work; clinical or in-service educational experience. Planned programs of activities and study with assured provisions for adequate supervision. Repeatable.

LA410. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA413. Analyzing Landscape Systems. 4 Credits.
Develops skills for collecting data and understanding how landscapes function in space and time to inform good decision-making in planning and design.
Prereq: one course in geography or biology or environmental studies.

LA415. Computers in Landscape Architecture. 4 Credits.
Repeatable. Development, application, and evaluation of computer systems for land use and site planning (e.g., geographic information systems); encoding of data, cell storage, and analysis systems.

LA417. Computer-Aided Landscape Design. 2-4 Credits.
Understanding and use of computer-aided drafting and design technology for executing landscape design development, evaluation, and presentation tasks.

LA421. Landscape Photography and Environmental Perception. 4 Credits.
The influence of changing photographic landscape representations upon the perception of places and communities in relation to ideas about natural, cultural, and environmental values.

LA433. Japanese Garden. 4 Credits.
Explores the art, form, meaning, and experience of Japanese gardens. Special emphasis on their heartland in the valley of Nara and Kyoto.

LA439. Landscape Architectural Design and Process. 6 Credits.
Intermediate problems in landscape architecture design. Relations among problem concepts, goals, design theory, communication media, and technical analysis. Repeatable four times for a total of 30 credits.

LA440. Introduction to Landscape Planning Analysis. 4 Credits.
Principles of designing land- and waterscapes for human use and settlement. Ecological, social, and economic analyses of landscapes, resources, and patterns of occupancy in the Eugene-Springfield area.
Prereq: LA 413.

LA441. Principles of Applied Ecology. 2-6 Credits.
Application of ecological concepts to landscape design, planning, and management. Emphasis on spatially explicit problem-solving over a range of spatial and temporal scales.
Prereq: one course in ecology.

LA443. Land and Landscape. 4 Credits.
Theories and concepts in landscape planning and design. The valuing emphasis alternates every other year between environmental ethics and environmental aesthetics. Repeatable.

LA448. Urban Landscape: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Analysis of case studies, problems, challenges, technologies, and methods that landscape architects contribute to the design and planning of sustainable urban places, neighborhoods, cities, and regions. Repeatable three times for a total of 16 credits.

LA450. Advanced Landscape Media. 4 Credits.
The role of media in design inquiry; development of hard-line drawing skills, diagramming, and principles of graphic design. Repeatable.

LA459. Landscape Technology Topics. 2-4 Credits.
Intensive study of topics in landscape construction and maintenance. Topics include irrigation, lighting, special structures, water management, and road design. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 10 credits.

LA465. Landscape Ecology. 4 Credits.
Links concepts and applications of landscape ecology through extensive field experiences that develop a deep understanding of a specific landscape or a set of issues.
Prereq: LA 441.

LA484. Landscape Perception. 4 Credits.
Development of the human-environment relationship as it relates to landscape perception, landscape archetypes, and the development of a theoretical base for contemporary landscape design.

LA489. Site Planning and Design. 6 Credits.
Advanced problems in landscape architecture, cultural determinants of site planning and design, design development and natural systems and processes as indicators of carrying capacity. Repeatable.
Prereq: LA 362, LA 366.

LA490. Comprehensive Project Preparation. 3 Credits.
Finding, describing, programming, and probing environmental opportunities and problems.

LA494. Land Planning and Design. 6 Credits.
Problems in landscape architecture of increased cultural complexity. Land use planning, computer-aided ecological analysis of land, environmental impact, urban and new community design.
Prereq: LA 489; fifth-year standing for undergraduates.

LA499. Comprehensive Project. 8 Credits.
Advanced planning and design projects in landscape architecture. Studio development of individually selected projects.
Prereq: LA 490.

LA503. Thesis. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA507. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA508. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable. Concentrated programs of study on special topics. Regular offerings include Fire Ecology and Management, Landscape Design.

LA510. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA513. Analyzing Landscape Systems. 4 Credits.
Develops skills for collecting data and understanding how landscapes function in space and time to inform good decision-making in planning and design.

LA515. Computers in Landscape Architecture. 4 Credits.
Development, application, and evaluation of computer systems for land use and site planning (e.g., geographic information systems); encoding of data, cell storage, and analysis systems. Repeatable.

LA517. Computer-Aided Landscape Design. 2-4 Credits.
Understanding and use of computer-aided drafting and design technology for executing landscape design development, evaluation, and presentation tasks.
Prereq: LA 539.

LA521. Landscape Photography and Environmental Perception. 4 Credits.
The influence of changing photographic landscape representations upon the perception of places and communities in relation to ideas about natural, cultural, and environmental values.

LA533. Japanese Garden. 4 Credits.
Explores the art, form, meaning, and experience of Japanese gardens. Special emphasis on their heartland in the valley of Nara and Kyoto.

LA539. Landscape Architectural Design and Process. 6 Credits.
Intermediate problems in landscape architecture design. Relations among problem concepts, goals, design theory, communication media, and technical analysis. Repeatable four times for a total of 30 credits.

LA540. Introduction to Landscape Planning Analysis. 4 Credits.
Principles of designing land- and waterscapes for human use and settlement. Ecological, social, and economic analyses of landscapes, resources, and patterns of occupancy in the Eugene-Springfield area.
Prereq: LA 513.

LA541. Principles of Applied Ecology. 2-6 Credits.
Application of ecological concepts to landscape design, planning, and management. Emphasis on spatially explicit problem-solving over a range of spatial and temporal scales.
Prereq: one course in the natural sciences.

LA543. Land and Landscape. 4 Credits.
Theories and concepts in landscape planning and design. The valuing emphasis alternates every other year between environmental ethics and environmental aesthetics. Repeatable.

LA548. Urban Landscape: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Analysis of case studies, problems, challenges, technologies, and methods that landscape architects contribute to the design and planning of sustainable urban places, neighborhoods, cities, and regions. Repeatable three times for a total of 16 credits.

LA550. Advanced Landscape Media. 4 Credits.
The role of media in design inquiry; development of hard-line drawing skills, diagramming, and principles of graphic design. Repeatable.

LA559. Landscape Technology Topics. 2-4 Credits.
Intensive study of topics in landscape construction and maintenance. Topics include irrigation, lighting, special structures, water management, and road design. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 10 credits.

LA565. Landscape Ecology. 4 Credits.
Links concepts and applications of landscape ecology through extensive field experiences that develop a deep understanding of a specific landscape or a set of issues.
Prereq: LA 4/541.

LA584. Landscape Perception. 4 Credits.
Development of the human-environment relationship as it relates to landscape perception, landscape archetypes, and the development of a theoretical base for contemporary landscape design.

LA589. Site Planning and Design. 6 Credits.
Advanced problems in landscape architecture, cultural determinants of site planning and design, design development and natural systems and processes as indicators of carrying capacity. Repeatable.

LA594. Land Planning and Design. 6 Credits.
Problems in landscape architecture of increased cultural complexity. Land-use planning, computer-aided ecological analysis of land, environmental impact, urban and new community design.
Prereq: LA 489/589.

LA601. Research: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA602. Supervised College Teaching. 2-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA603. Dissertation. 1-16 Credits.

LA605. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA606. Special Problems: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA607. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable. A recent topic is Introduction to Landscape Literature.

LA608. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable. Intensive study combining practical projects with instruction on special topics related to landscape problems.

LA609. Practicum: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable. Supervised field laboratory work; clinical or in-service educational experience. Planned programs of activities and study with assured provisions for adequate supervision.

LA610. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

LA617. Introduction to Landscape Architecture Theory. 4 Credits.
Survey and critique of the theoretical frameworks for landscape architecture.

LA620. Landscape Research Methods I. 2-4 Credits.
Contemporary research issues and strategies. Theories, approaches, and techniques applicable to topics and problems in landscape architecture. Sequence with LA 621.

LA621. Landscape Research Methods II. 2-4 Credits.
Contemporary research issues and strategies. Theories, approaches, and techniques applicable to topics and problems in landscape architecture. Sequence with LA 620.
Prereq: LA 620.

LA695. Research Proposal Development. 2 Credits.
Preparation and presentation of the student's terminal research and design project proposal and plan for completion of the master's degree in landscape architecture.
Prereq: LA 621.

LA699. Master's Project. 2-10 Credits.
Student-directed and executed performance and communication of original research or project work to demonstrate advanced mastery of landscape architecture. Repeatable.