LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAJOR

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR)
Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture (PSLA)
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Landscape Architects lead, educate, and participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our built and natural environments. The Landscape Architecture curriculum is a four-year professional program.

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB (http://asla.org/accreditationlaab.aspx#About_LAAB)). The BLA degree meets the academic requirements for licensure in all fifty states. LAAB standards require that first-professional degree curricula must include the core knowledge skills and applications of landscape architecture: landscape architectural history, philosophy, theory, values, ethics, practice, planning, design, implementation, and management. The program is a site-based design discipline that also deals with regional and larger-scale environmental/social issues. The curriculum, centered on a studio-based design curriculum, integrates ecological and social factors into the design and planning process. Students take a series of lecture and studio design courses, beginning with an introduction to landscape design principles in the first year and culminating in an advanced research and studio design project in the graduating year. Courses include Site Analysis and Ecological Principles, Site Design Studio, Urban Design Studio, and Professional Practice, among others. Digital design studios allow the integration of computer-aided design, GIS, and other analytical and communication tools with fundamental design and drawing skills.

Landscape architects are licensed environmental design professionals who analyze, plan, co-design, manage, and preserve the built and natural environments. The work we do has a significant impact on environmental justice, community health, and quality of life. In landscape architecture, you will learn to design landscapes and communities so they can withstand and be resilient in the face of pressing global and local challenges. You will transform and protect built environments, lead design teams that include scientists, planners, engineers, architects, real clients, community groups, landscape managers, and municipal agencies. You will learn the creative skills of strategic design, and the technical skills needed to write contracts and turn your ideas on paper into functioning and performing landscapes. You will master 3D visualization software and advanced digital technologies to gather and analyze data, co-design, and construct landscapes that will form an infrastructure around which community and society will be built. You will acquire competencies and experiences in leading and crafting design processes and approaches, critically analyzing and assessing landscapes of natural and cultural value, communicating through artful storytelling (written/oral/visual), developing construction details, engineering landscapes for human inhabitation and managing water, and engaging state of the art computer applications, professional practice, and research methods for design.

Career tracks include:

- **Ecological Design** - where you are trained to analyze degraded environmental conditions such as brownfields, strip mines and abandoned urban industrial sites, and restore them to high-functioning terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- **Urban Design** - where you examine civic environments and human activity and weave them together into a fabric of streets and open spaces, waterfronts and central parks, historically significant districts and communities with emerging identities, and neighborhoods that are socially equitable and economically viable.
- **Community Design** - where you address issues of climate change, cultural resource preservation, urban agriculture, redevelopment of vacant properties, crime prevention through environmental design, and a wide range of planning and design activities that embrace the views of community residents.
- **Creative Design** - where you engage in all forms of creativity, including earthworks, soundscapes, lighting design, metal fabricating, woodworking, stonework, sculpture, mosaics, murals and more. Every object in the landscape has the potential for beauty when unlocked by a savvy designer.
- **Productive Landscapes** - where you will seek to develop strategies for visions of multifunctional green spaces for the promotion of ecosystem and cultural benefits to the surrounding communities, from pocket parks to regions.

Our nationally accredited program is built around a series of technical knowledge, theory and skill-building courses that support six sequential capstone courses (studios). You will practice and master your skill sets in the capstone studios through a partnership in co-creation with a community in Washington, DC, Baltimore, and throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Through this partnership, you will learn how to envision and co-create real-world design projects under the mentorship of instructors and guests. Each capstone studio builds upon your prior experiences yet focuses on different scales, issues and project types (ecological design, urban design, community design, productive landscapes, etc.).

Courses offered by this department may be found under the following acronyms: PLSC and LARC.

Admission to the Major

Landscape Architecture is an open-enrollment program.

Freshman Admission

The program's goal is to have a greater proportion of program majors admitted as freshmen. All entering freshmen will gain admission to the Landscape Architecture program directly from high school, as space permits. Early application is encouraged to ensure the best possible chance for admission.

Transfer Admission

Admission of transfer students is limited by space considerations. Students presenting an acceptable graphic portfolio, evaluated by the landscape architecture faculty, may be exempted from selected courses. Landscape architecture faculty will evaluate all other LARC-equivalent courses transferred from another institution.

The Studio Placement Benchmark Review

Admission into the studio sequence is contingent upon attaining a successful benchmark review of a portfolio to meet content and quality standards as outlined by the LARC program. Students must earn a minimum of 80 points out of 100. Benchmark portfolio reviews occur in the spring semester. The portfolio also requires a Letter of Application to the Landscape Architecture program. Each student must write a one-page letter, addressed to the Landscape Architecture program faculty. The letter must clearly and concisely state his/her reasons for wanting to be in the Landscape Architecture Program.

Other Policies that Determine a Student's Retention in the Landscape Architecture Program

Appeals

Students who are unsuccessful in passing the Studio Placement Benchmark Review to the Landscape Architecture program and believe they have extenuating or special circumstances that should be considered may appeal in writing to the BLA Chair. The student will be notified in writing of the appeal decision.

BLA Degree Requirements

The courses and credit hours that define the curriculum leading to the degree of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (B.L.A.) are described in the next section. The curriculum includes required courses for the major as well as additional general education program requirements and electives. Following the successful Studio Placement Benchmark Review, students must have an overall average of a "C" (2.0) to be eligible for the B.L.A. degree. Students must also have grades of "C-" or better in all required courses with the LARC designation.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the design process used in landscape architectural practice.
2. Demonstrate the ability to communicate through visual literacy using hand graphics and computer technology.
3. Connect and build relationships with external groups in the appropriate fields of study.

REQUIREMENTS

Grade Policy: LARC has a minimum grade policy which states that LARC students must earn a “C-“ or better in all major required courses, including LARC courses and required supporting courses in other departments. Students must also have both a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0 and a 2.0 cumulative GPA in all major requirements in order to graduate.

Course	Title	Credits
Math		
MATH113	College Algebra and Trigonometry (or higher level math course)	3
Plant Science Courses		
PLSC110 & PLSC111	Introduction to Horticulture and Introduction to Horticulture Laboratory	4
PLSC253	Woody Plants for Mid-Atlantic Landscapes I	3
PLSC254	Woody Plants for Mid-Atlantic Landscape II	3
Foundational Landscape Architecture Courses		
LARC160	Introduction to Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design	3
LARC263	History of Landscape Architecture	3
LARC265 & LARC266	Site Analysis and Ecological Principles and Site and Landscape Ecology Field Studies	4
Studios		
LARC131	Computer Visualization I	3
LARC230	Design Fundamentals Studio	5
LARC231	Site Planning and Design Studio	5
LARC330	Urban Design Studio	5
LARC331	Regional Design and GIS Studio	5
LARC430	Community Design Studio	5
LARC471	Capstone Praxis Studio	5
Eco-Land Technical Courses		
LARC411	Construction Technology I: Principles of Site Engineering	4
LARC412	Construction Technology II: Materials and Structures	4
LARC413	Construction Technology III: Water Soil-Centric Practices	4
Visualization Courses		
LARC220	Landscape Visualization II	4
LARC221	Digital Design Tools	3
Career Preparation		
LARC389	Internship in Landscape Architecture (or Approved Study Abroad)	3
LARC420	Professional Practice	3
LARC Upper Level Restricted Electives		**6**
LARC451	Sustainable Communities	
LARC452	Green Infrastructure and Community Greening	
LARC453	Introduction to GIS and Hydrologic Modeling	
LARC454	Principles for Planting Design	
LARC461	People and the Environment	
LARC470	Landscape Architecture Seminar	
Total Credits		**87**

GRADUATION PLANS

Click here (https://agnr.umd.edu/academics/advising/four-year-plans/) for roadmaps for graduation plans in the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources.

Additional information on developing a graduation plan can be found on the following pages:

- http://4yearplans.umd.edu
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/#success) section of this catalog

ADVISING

The department has mandatory faculty advising for each of its major and minor programs. Students are required to meet with their faculty advisor at least twice a year. See Diana Cortez, Faculty Specialist, in 2139 Plant Sciences Building (301-405-4359, dcortez@umd.edu) for additional information.

OPPORTUNITIES

Undergraduate Research Experiences

Landscape Architecture faculty members frequently have research opportunities for undergraduate students. Students are encouraged to contact faculty members for any opportunities. Students may also discuss these opportunities with their faculty advisors.

Internships

Internships are available at nearby federal, state, and county agencies as well as in private landscape architecture firms. University of Maryland Landscape Architecture participates in the MDASLA Job Shadow Program. A list of participating firms can be found on our Careers (https://larch.umd.edu/about/careers/) page.

Student Societies and Professional Organizations

The Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (SASLA) provides students with opportunities to get involved with on-campus activities. The club is chartered by ASLA.

More information can be found online on our Student ASLA (https://larch.umd.edu/people/student-asla/) page.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

Several scholarships are awarded each year based on merit and need through the Department of Plant Sciences and Landscape Architecture. They include:

Undergraduate Awards

- The Homeland Garden Club of Baltimore Award
- Olmsted Scholar Award
- Landscape Architecture Award of Excellence
- ASLA Honor and Merit Award Nominees
- Spirit of the Studio Award
- Matt Weaver Scholarship

Contact the Associate Dean's office at 301-405-5308 for additional information. The department also maintains a listing of scholarships. Contact the Executive Administrative Assistant in 2104A Plant Sciences, 301-405-4356 for more information.

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, visit http://financialaid.umd.edu.