

Department of Landscape Architecture

Department Head: Professor Sadik Artunc

Office: Landscape Architecture Facility C103

BLA in Landscape Architecture

Landscape Architecture Major

The profession of landscape architecture offers students the opportunity to engage in shaping the environmental and cultural landscape through planning and design to improve quality of life. The Mississippi State University Landscape Architecture programs teach the artful synthesis of social and ecological processes related to planning, designing, building and managing regenerative communities in Mississippi and the Northern Gulf Region, within a global perspective. Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) program experience an immersive, intense, and rewarding education structured around a studio environment that promotes critical thinking and creative problem solving. The department is dedicated to providing a high-quality education for our students, through small class sizes and one-on-one interaction between student and faculty. The teaching philosophy of the MSU Department of Landscape Architecture is rooted in the cultural and ecological phenomena that constitute our placed-based educational approach to empower student learning. Students in the BLA program cultivate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in a context specific environment across multiple-scales including the site, community, urban, and regional settings.

Our BLA program is the only accredited bachelor of landscape architecture degree program in the three state region of Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The BLA is a Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredited professional degree program. The LAAB evaluates a program based on its stated objectives and compliance to externally mandated minimum standards and accredits professional degrees at the bachelor's and master's levels in the United States. Our BLA program prepares students for entry-level positions in design offices, public practice, not-for-profits and primes students for graduate studies in allied professions. In addition, our department offers a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Contracting and Management that students in the BLA program can pursue simultaneously.

Curriculum

The four-year BLA curriculum provides the foundational framework for a career in landscape architecture. The coursework involves knowledge acquisition, skill development, and the ability to apply knowledge and skill through the design process. The first year of the program introduces the student to relevant history, theory and criticism, plants and cultural systems, and digital and traditional communication applications. The second year begins the Design and Construction sequence.

The design studio is at the core of the professional program. The professional studio sequence includes six (6) landscape architecture design studios, Design I-V and Landscape Architecture Capstone Studio. Capstone is the climax studio, where students pursue individual or specialized interests through the development of a semester long project. The construction sequence consists of three (3) courses, Construction I-III. The studio and construction sequence addresses the design, planning and management of the landscape at multiple scales through the application of the design process.

In years two and three of the program, each student must participate in two department led field trips. The field trips are a critical component of the professional curriculum and provide opportunities for students to study, explore, and experience significant works of landscape architecture in the United States and around the world.

The remainder of the required courses in the curriculum addresses professional practice, public policy and regulation, and professional values and ethics. Finally, year four offers students eleven (11) elective hours of coursework to meet each student's own objectives that lead to a well-rounded university education.

At the successful completion of the fourth year, students receive the professional degree of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA).

Standards and Requirements

All students in Landscape Architecture are required to have their own personal computer. Students should check with the department for equipment specifications prior to purchasing.

Landscape Architecture requires that a grade of "C" or better is required to fulfill a Major Core Requirement.

The department reserves the right to retain student work for the purpose of records, exhibition, instruction, and accreditation.

In addition to University policies, all students enrolled in this curriculum shall be required to abide by all approved departmental policies.

Degree Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103

English Composition I

or EN 1163	Accelerated Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	
Mathematics		
Select from General Education courses		6-9
Science		
Select from General Education courses		6-9
Humanities		
Select from General Education courses		6
Fine Arts		
ART 1113	Art Appreciation	3
or ARC 1013	Architectural Appreciation	
Social Sciences		
Select from General Education courses		6
Major Core		
ART 1123	Design I	3
ENS 2103	Introduction to Environmental Science	3
PSS 2423	Plant Materials I	3
LA 1153	Introduction to Landscape Architecture	3
LA 1223	Use of Computers in Landscape Architecture	3
LA 1333	Landscape Systems and Plant Communities	3
LA 1423	History of Landscape Architecture	3
LA 1533	Presentation Methods and Media	3
LA 2544	Landscape Architecture Construction I: Materials	4
LA 2554	Landscape Architecture Design Studio I	4
LA 2652	Landscape Architecture Precedent Studies	2
LA 2644	Construction II: Grading	4
LA 2654	Landscape Architecture Design II: Neighborhood Context	4
LA 3534	Landscape Architecture Construction III - Hydrology	4
LA 3554	Landscape Architecture Design III - Small Town/Rural Context	4
LA 3623	Urban Planning Theory	3
LA 3652	Case Studies of Executed Works in Landscape Architecture	2
LA 3653	Planting Design Fundamentals in Landscape Architecture	3
LA 3654	Landscape Architecture Design IV: Urban Design	4
LA 4723	Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture	3
LA 4754	Design V-Regional	4
LA 4844	Sustainable Communities	4
LA 4854	Landscape Architecture Capstone Studio	4
Electives		11
Oral Communication Requirement		
Satisfied by successful completion of LA 4854		
Writing Requirement		
Satisfied by successful completion of LA 4723		
Computer Literacy		
Satisfied by successful completion of LA 1223		
Total Hours		124

BS in Landscape Contracting

Landscape Contracting and Management Major (LAC)

A landscape contractor is a specialty contractor who provides the materials and services needed to make the landscape architect's project become a reality; and/or to provide the management and maintenance needed to keep the project in prime condition after implementation.

All students in Landscape Contracting and Management are required to have their own personal computer. Students should check with the department for equipment specifications prior to purchasing.

The Landscape Contracting and Management degree program at Mississippi State University, accredited by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), requires three internships which involve three semesters of experiential learning and field experience with an approved landscape contracting company or agency; and, under supervision of a qualified supervisor and oversight of Mississippi State University faculty. In addition, two departmental field trips are specific curriculum requirements for this degree. A field trip fee will be assessed to specific courses. Upon successful completion of curriculum requirements, a student receives a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Contracting and Management.

In as much as the published Bulletin of Mississippi State defines a letter grade of "D" as poor, The Department of Landscape Architecture requires that a grade of "C" or better is required to fulfill a major core requirement.¹

The department reserves the right to retain student work for the purpose of records, exhibition, instruction, industry review, etc. In addition to Mississippi State University policies, all students enrolled in this curriculum shall be required to abide by all approved departmental policies.

¹ As published in the Department of Landscape Architecture policy manual.

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I ¹	3
or EN 1163	Accelerated Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II ¹	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Mathematics

MA 2113	Introduction to Statistics ³	3
or ST 2113	Introduction to Statistics	
Select from General Education courses		3

Science ²

BIO 2113	Plant Biology	3
CH 1043	Survey of Chemistry I	3
PSS 3303	Soils	3
PSS 3301	Soils Laboratory	1

Humanities

FLS 1113	Spanish I	3
FLS 1123	Spanish II	3

Fine Arts

Select from General Education courses		3
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Social Sciences

EC 2113	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
EC 2123	Principles of Microeconomics	3

Major Core

LA 1711	Landscape Contracting Internship I	1
LA 1153	Introduction to Landscape Architecture	3
LA 1333	Landscape Systems and Plant Communities	3
LA 1533	Presentation Methods and Media	3
LA 2253	Plant Design Fundamentals in Landscape Architecture	3
LA 2711	Landscape Contracting Internship II	1
LA 2544	Landscape Architecture Construction I: Materials	4
LA 2644	Construction II: Grading	4
LA 3701	Landscape Contracting Seminar II	1
LA 4724	Landscape Contracting II	4
LA 3721	Landscape Contracting Field Trip I	1
LA 3711	Landscape Contracting Internship III	1
LA 4701	Landscape Contracting Seminar III	1
LA 4344	Landscape Architecture Construction IV	4
LA 4721	Landscape Contracting Field Trip II	1
LA 4753	Sustainable Landscape Management	3

EPP 3423	Ornamental and Turfgrass Insects	3
PSS 2423	Plant Materials I	3
PSS 3133	Introduction to Weed Science	3
PSS 3473	Plant Materials II	3
PSS 4353	Arboriculture and Landscape Maintenance	3
PSS 4413	Turfgrass Management	3
ACC 2013	Principles of Financial Accounting	3
ACC 2023	Principles of Managerial Accounting	3
MKT 3013	Principles of Marketing	3
BL 3223	The Law of Commercial Transactions	3
MGT 3323	Entrepreneurship	3
MGT 3513	Introduction to Human Resource Management	3
3 hours	Elective	3
Oral Communication Requirement		
CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
or CO 1013	Introduction to Communication	
Writing Requirement		
LA 4723	Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture	3
Computer Literacy		
LA 1223	Use of Computers in Landscape Architecture	3
Total Hours		123