Graduate study leading to a Master of Landscape Architecture degree is offered in the Department of Landscape Architecture; thesis and non-thesis options are available. Students in the program have the opportunity to work with faculty on a wide range of research and design topics within the profession of landscape architecture. Special program emphasis is placed on watershed planning, landscape management, and community planning and design. The design studio courses broadly consider landscape issues related to water, health, and habitat in an effort to achieve the department’s mission of “fostering the will and ability to plan, design, build and manage regenerative communities.”

Admission

The applicant to the M.L.A. program should have a minimum GPA of 2.80 on a 4.00 scale. A student without a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture from an accredited program may undertake the M.L.A. as a first professional degree but is required to undertake additional “leveling” coursework to ensure competency in the field; this typically requires an additional year of study. Submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores is recommended but not required. The applicant’s submission should include a letter of interest that includes a written statement (no more than 1500 words) explaining his or her interest in pursuing graduate studies in landscape architecture at Mississippi State University. Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s academic work, motivation, and character should accompany the application. The applicant should also submit a detailed résumé. Applicants with degrees from allied fields (such as architecture or civil engineering) should submit a portfolio if they wish to be considered for course reductions during the leveling year. Contact the department’s graduate coordinator for more information.

Master of Landscape Architecture - Thesis

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA 6113</td>
<td>Design Theory and Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8513</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8711</td>
<td>Seminar in Watershed Planning and Management</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8523</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8721</td>
<td>Seminar in Landscape Management</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8533</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8731</td>
<td>Seminar in Community Based Planning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8741</td>
<td>Proposal Writing Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8751</td>
<td>Seminar in Contemporary Design Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 8613</td>
<td>Research Methods in Landscape Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved Graduate-level Elective</td>
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Other Requirements

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<tr>
<td>LA 8000</td>
<td>Thesis Research/ Thesis in Landscape Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST 8114</td>
<td>Statistical Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO 8274</td>
<td>Graduate Social Statistics I</td>
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Total Hours: 33

A thesis proposal will be developed for presentation to and approval by the graduate committee. The graduate committee is comprised of not fewer than three graduate faculty, at least two of whom must be from the Department of Landscape Architecture. The candidate’s graduate committee must approve the thesis and administer a final oral examination or thesis defense. The thesis must be submitted to the members of the committee for approval at least fourteen days prior to a scheduled defense.

Master of Landscape Architecture - Non-Thesis

Core Courses

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
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<td>LA 8513</td>
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<td>LA 8711</td>
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**Other Requirements**

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<tr>
<td>LA 6443</td>
<td>Exterior Design-Build Studio</td>
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<td>LA 6514</td>
<td>Ecological Planting Design</td>
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<td>LA 8545</td>
<td>LA Studio IV-Case Study ¹</td>
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**Total Hours** 39

¹ Non-thesis student must have a signed proposal prior to entering LA 8545. The proposal must include the course instructor and one additional graduate faculty member from the department who will serve as an advisor.