

Department of Landscape Architecture

Department Head: Professor Anne Spafford

Office: Landscape Architecture Facility C103

Department of Landscape Architecture curricula focus on connecting art, culture, and the environment to provide society with places that people love and that are holistically and ecologically planned, designed and managed. Students explore subjects such as the design process, storm water design, energy flow, native landscapes and plant materials, green infrastructure, sustainability, community planning, and regional planning. An undergraduate student may major in Landscape Architecture, Landscape Contracting and Management, or pursue a dual degree path where students concurrently work toward bachelor degrees in both programs.

A graduate program in Landscape Architecture is also offered in the Department of Landscape Architecture. Consult the Graduate Bulletin for additional details.

BLA in Landscape Architecture

Major Advisor: Associate Professor Jason Walker

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 Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) program teaches 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 BLA program experience an immersive, intense, and rewarding education structured around a studio environment that promotes critical thinking and creative problem solving. The department delivers a high-quality education for our students, through small class sizes and one-on-one interaction between student and faculty. The MSU Department of Landscape Architecture's teaching philosophy is rooted in the cultural and ecological phenomena that constitute our place-based educational approach to empower student learning. Students in the BLA program cultivate their knowledge, skills, and competencies 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 Mississippi. 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 to pursue careers in landscape architecture 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. Landscape Architecture is a licensed profession. The typical path to licensure includes successful completion of an accredited landscape architecture program, 2-4 years of work experience, then passing the four-part Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE).

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 demonstrate competency 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 four (4) courses, Construction I-III, and V. 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 shall 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 students choose three (3) LA elective hours and ten (10) 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.

General Education Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
or EN 1104	Expanded English Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Creative Discovery

ARC 1013	Architectural Appreciation	3
or ART 1113	Art Appreciation	

Humanities

Select from General Education courses		6
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Social/Behavioral Sciences

Select from General Education courses		6
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Quantitative Reasoning

Select from General Education courses		3
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Natural Sciences

Select from General Education courses		6
ENS 2103	Introduction to Environmental Science	3

Degree Requirements

Major Core

ART 1123	Design I	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 1701	Landscape Professional Career Paths Seminar	1
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 4124	Landscape Architecture Construction V: Construction Documents	4
LA 4723	Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture	3
LA 4754	Design V-Regional	4

LA 4843	Sustainable Communities	3
LA 4854	Landscape Architecture Capstone Studio	4
LA Elective		3
Electives		10
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 and Management

Major Advisor: Dr. Timothy Schauwecker

Landscape Contracting and Management Major (LAC)

A landscape contractor is a specialty contract professional who provides the expertise, materials and services needed to make the landscape design project become a reality; and/or to provide the management expertise needed to keep the project in prime condition after construction implementation.

The Landscape Contracting and Management degree program at Mississippi State University, accredited by the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP), 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.

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

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.

A Landscape Contracting and Management student can choose from two concentrations: Landscape Business Management or Ecosystem Management.

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

General Education Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
or EN 1104	Expanded English Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Creative Discovery

Select from General Education courses	3
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Humanities

FLS 1113	Spanish I	3
FLS 1123	Spanish II	3

Social/Behavioral Sciences (vary by concentration) 6

Required for Landscape Business Management concentration:

EC 2113	Principles of Macroeconomics	
EC 2123	Principles of Microeconomics	
or AEC 2713	Introduction to Food and Resource Economics	

Required for Ecosystem Management concentration: 6

SO 1003	Introduction to Sociology	
EC 2123	Principles of Microeconomics	
or AEC 2713	Introduction to Food and Resource Economics	
Quantitative Reasoning		
ST 2113	Introduction to Statistics	3
or MA 2113	Introduction to Statistics	
Natural Sciences		
CH 1043	Survey of Chemistry I	3
PSS 3303	Soils	3
PSS 3301	Soils Laboratory	1

Degree Requirements

Major Core

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 1533	Presentation Methods and Media	3
LA 1701	Landscape Professional Career Paths Seminar	1
LA 1711	Landscape Contracting Internship I	1
LA 2711	Landscape Contracting Internship II	1
LA 2544	Landscape Architecture Construction I: Materials	4
LA 2644	Construction II: Grading	4
LA 3653	Planting Design Fundamentals in Landscape Architecture	3
LA 3701	Landscape Contracting Seminar II	1
LA 3711	Landscape Contracting Internship III	1
LA 3721	Landscape Contracting Field Trip I	1
LA 4344	Landscape Architecture Construction IV	4
LA 4701	Landscape Contracting Seminar III	1
LA 4721	Landscape Contracting Field Trip II	1
LA 4724	Landscape Contracting II	4
LA 4753	Sustainable Landscape Management	3
EPP 3423	Ornamental and Turfgrass Insects	3
PSS 2113	Introduction to Turfgrass Science	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
ACC 2013	Principles of Financial Accounting	3
ACC 2023	Principles of Managerial Accounting	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

Choose one of the following concentrations:

Landscape Business Management (LBM)

Science Requirement (Natural Sciences Gen Ed)

BIO 1023	Plants and Humans	3
or PSS 1313	Plant Science	
MGT 3323	Entrepreneurship	3

or MGT 3113	Principles of Management	
MGT 3513	Introduction to Human Resource Management	3
MKT 3013	Principles of Marketing	3
BL 3223	The Law of Commercial Transactions	3
or BL 2413	The Legal Environment of Business	
Free Electives		6
Total Hours for degree		124

Ecosystem Management (EM)

Science Requirement (Natural Sciences Gen Ed)

BIO 1134	Biology I	4
ENS 2103	Introduction to Environmental Science	3
ENS 2101	Introduction to Environmental Science Laboratory	1
AEC 3233	Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy	3
AN 4173	Environment and Society	3
or SO 4173	Environment and Society	
BIO 3104	Ecology	4
Free Electives		3
Total Hours for degree		124

Landscape Architectural Studies Minor

The Department of Landscape Architecture offers a minor in landscape architectural studies. The minor requires completion of 18 credit hours. Each student shall take a minimum of 14 credit hours of optional courses that include a minimum of six (6) credit hours of upper level courses (3000 or 4000). a maximum of six (6) credit hours count toward the minor that overlap with a student's major core curriculum. This overlap applies to LAC students and may apply to other CALS majors.

Major/Minor Required Courses

LA 1701	Landscape Professional Career Paths Seminar	1
LA 1423	History of Landscape Architecture	3

Optional Courses

LA 1153	Introduction to Landscape Architecture	
LA 1223	Use of Computers in Landscape Architecture	
LA 1333	Landscape Systems and Plant Communities	
LA 1433	Landscape Architecture Creativity	
LA 1533	Presentation Methods and Media	
LA 1803	Landscape Architecture Appreciation	
LA 2453	Site Inventory and Analysis	
LA 2544	Landscape Architecture Construction I: Materials	
LA 2652	Landscape Architecture Precedent Studies	
LA 2654	Landscape Architecture Design II: Neighborhood Context	
LA 2644	Construction II: Grading	
LA 3603	Design of the Golf Environment	
LA 3623	Urban Planning Theory	
LA 3653	Planting Design Fundamentals in Landscape Architecture	
LA 4113	Design Theory and Criticism.	
LA 4344	Landscape Architecture Construction IV	
LA 4463	Community Food Systems	
LA 4514	Ecological Planting Design	
LA 4653	Study Abroad: Gardens and Urban Spaces	
LA 4753	Sustainable Landscape Management	
LA 4843	Sustainable Communities	

PSS 2423	Plant Materials I	
Total Hours		18