

# Department of Landscape Architecture

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Landscape architecture is a design profession dedicated to the stewardship of the natural and cultural environment. Professional practice is diverse with career opportunities in the traditional landscape architecture firm, the design/build industry, interdisciplinary planning, engineering or architecture firms, urban, regional and national public agencies as well non-governmental organizations such as land and watershed trusts.

Landscape architects practice design at many levels, from smaller private sites to larger public educational sites such as botanic gardens and arboreta, from small commercial sites to large mixed-use community complexes and from neighborhood and community design to large scale regional, land use and open space planning. Landscape architects restore and heal, working to regenerate and foster positive landscape change, restoring older established communities, urban riparian corridors and historic landscapes. Some also work with caregivers in the design of therapeutic landscapes for health and education facilities. Many specializations are possible: golf course design, stormwater design and management, landscape preservation, community design, eco-resort design, national and international land planning, habitat preservation and restoration, urban design, landscape interpretation and cultural preservation, campus design, , zoo design, landscape art and computer assisted landscape modeling and visualization. The landscape architect's unique expertise lies in the development of a systematic and analytical approach to solving land-use design and planning problems. Wherever people and landscape interface, landscape architects practice and wherever landscape architects practice they are engaged in interdisciplinary, cross-cultural efforts to create "place" and preserve the integrity of the landscape.

Landscape architectural education at the University of Idaho is enhanced by the ecology of the Inland Northwest landscape and the academic diversity of a land grant institution. Set within the scenic Palouse Hills ecoregion of the Columbia Plateau and the Palouse watershed, the University of Idaho provides a rich context for studying landscape architecture from a bioregional and watershed perspective. The College of Art and Architecture, the home of the Landscape Architecture Department, provides many opportunities for collaboration with students and faculty in architecture, arts and humanities and the social sciences. Landscape architecture students also take courses in the College of Natural Resources and the College of Engineering. Students in the program learn that any design intervention must consider the influence and the critical character of the larger landscape and that transdisciplinary collaboration is important to successful professional practice.

The department offers the professional Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree as well as the Master of Science, Landscape Architecture (MSLA). The four-year BLA professional program is the only landscape architecture program in the State of Idaho and is fully accredited by the American Society of Landscape Architects – an important factor to consider when applying for the Landscape Architecture Registration Exam (LARE). Students begin the program in their first year with introductory lecture courses and planting design studios. Studios in the following three years expose the student to several aspects of professional practice including: site suitability analysis, design process and critical thinking, design narrative and metaphor, sustainable design best practices, interdisciplinary community design and planning, applied landscape ecology, environmental psychology, riparian and wetlands design, open space planning, as well as master planning, design development and construction documents process. Students in their final fourth year studio select a topic related to landscape architecture and complete an undergraduate thesis. Other program courses in landscape graphic, landscape construction, stormwater design, irrigation and water conservation, geographic information science (GIS), computer aided design (CAD), and landscape architecture history and theory are integrated into the design studio experience, providing tools and substance for different design projects. Additional required electives in architecture, art, engineering, natural resources, biology, soils and geology further enhance the student's professional undergraduate education.

The landscape architecture program provides several unique opportunities:

- Qualified transfer students who enter the undergraduate program with a four-year baccalaureate degree in another discipline may apply for the three-year BLA/MSLA option. All other qualified students may apply for an additional one-year, 30 credit hour MSLA degree.
- Students participate in the department's Study Abroad Program at Casa Wallace in Cremolino, Italy.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in the department's Summer Study Abroad Program at Casa Wallace in Cremolino, Italy. This six week, 11-credit hour program may be used as a substitute for one of the third year studios and the required urban theory course.
- All landscape architecture majors are required to take part in two field trips in the third and fourth year of the program. These three to five day trips are usually to Northwest cities such as Portland, Seattle and San Francisco. Often one of these trips is substituted by a visit to the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) national conference when the meeting is held in the western region of the country.
- The majority of studio projects serve as the core of the department's outreach mission with students collaborating with professionals or University of Idaho architecture students on design and planning projects for communities in the state and region.

- Faculty work with students to assist them in finding summer internships with public agencies and private firms.
- All students engage in undergraduate research with a faculty advisor as a component of their senior thesis developing a case study of a significant landscape that serves as resource for further scholarly research.

## Courses

See Part 6 for courses in Landscape Architecture (LArc). See the section on “Fees and Expenses” in Part 2 for the architecture dedicated fee.

## Undergraduate Curricular Requirements

### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (B.L.Arch.)

Students are typically accepted into the landscape architecture major as freshman or as transfer students. However accreditation standards defining acceptable student/faculty ratios, and the availability of overall studio space, limit the number of students in the sophomore, junior and senior design studios. In order to meet these standards and constraints all transfer students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 to be considered for admission to the B.L.Arch. program. All new students whether freshman or transfer will be required to submit a portfolio of creative work at the end of their first year in the program. (Students are encouraged to include work from landscape architecture courses and any art or architecture courses they may have taken.) A committee of faculty will review this portfolio along with each student's cumulative GPA to determine their eligibility to continue in the program. Portfolios are due no later than the Monday of No Examination Week. All students will be notified of their eligibility for the coming fall semester no later than three weeks after the last day of classes of spring semester.

All majors in the program must maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA in landscape architecture major courses. Failure to do so will require the student to meet with their advisor and repeat the landscape architecture major courses that impact this overall GPA before advancing in the program.

On registering for a course offered by the department, the student agrees that the department may retain work completed by the student for display, instruction, and accreditation purposes.

Landscape Architecture students are required to participate in two extended field trips at their own expense, one in the spring of their third year and another in the fall of their fourth year.

Landscape Architecture students are normally required to participate in the department's Study Abroad, Service Learning program in Cremonino, Italy in order to graduate with a BLA degree. This program takes place in the first eight weeks of the fall semester of the student's senior year. This study abroad program is subject to national and international conditions that may impact the department's ability to offer the program.

**Computer Equipment:** beginning with Landscape Architecture I, all landscape architecture students are required to have their own computer and appropriate software for use in their studios.

Required course work includes the university requirements (see regulation J-3) and:

Arch 483 Urban Theory and Issues (3 cr)  
 Art 110 Visual Communication (2 cr)  
 Art 111 Drawing I (2 cr)  
 Biol 102 Biology and Society (4 cr)  
 Biol 314 Ecology and Population Biology or For 221 Ecology (3-4 cr)  
 Geol 101 Physical Geology (4 cr)  
 LArc 155, 156 Introduction to Landscape Architecture I-II (2 cr)  
 LArc 210 Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture (2 cr)  
 LArc 245 Landscape Graphics I (2 cr)  
 LArc 246 Landscape Graphics II (2 cr)  
 LArc 256 Landscape Architecture 1.1 (3 cr)  
 LArc 257 Landscape Architecture 1.2 (3 cr)  
 LArc 261 Landscape Architecture 2.1 (3 cr)  
 LArc 262 Landscape Architecture 2.2 (3 cr)  
 LArc 268 Landscape Construction I (2 cr)  
 LArc 269 Landscape Construction II (2 cr)  
 LArc 288 Plant Materials I (3 cr)  
 LArc 289 Plant Materials II (4 cr)  
 LArc 356 Landscape Architecture 3.1 (3 cr)  
 LArc 357 Landscape Architecture 3.2 (3 cr)  
 LArc 358 Professional Office Practice, LA (2 cr)  
 LArc 361 Landscape Architecture 4.1 (3 cr)

LArc 362 Landscape Architecture 4.2 (3 cr)  
 LArc 368 Landscape Architecture Construction III (2 cr)  
 LArc 369 Landscape Architecture Construction IV (2 cr)  
 LArc 380 Water in the Urban Context (2 cr)  
 LArc 389 History of Landscape Architecture (3 cr)  
 LArc 395 GIS in Land Planning (3 cr)  
 LArc 456 Landscape Architecture 5.1 (3 cr)  
 LArc 457 Landscape Architecture 5.2 (3 cr)  
 LArc 460 Landscape Architecture 6.0 (6 cr)  
 LArc 480 The Emerging Landscape (3 cr)  
 Math 143 Pre-calculus Algebra and Analytic Geom (3 cr)  
 Soil 205 The Soil Ecosystem (3 cr)  
 Electives to total 133 cr for the degree, of which at least 6 cr must be from psychology and sociology for transfer students from other universities.

Recommended electives:

Art 121 Design Process I (2 cr)  
 Art 380 Digital Imaging (3 cr)  
 CSS 486 Public Involvement in Natural Resource Management (3 cr)  
 Fish 430 Riparian Ecology and Management (3 cr)  
 For 235 Society and Natural Resources (3 cr)  
 For 429 Landscape Ecology (3 cr)  
 Geog 180 Geospatial Graphics (3 cr)  
 Geol 335 Geomorphology (3 cr)  
 LArc 364 Summer Study Abroad Design Studio (6 cr)  
 LArc 382 Landscape, Language and Culture (2 cr)  
 LArc 390 Italian Hill Towns and Urban Centers (3 cr)  
 LArc 495 Computer-Aided Regional Landscape Planning (3 cr)  
 Phil 452 Environmental Philosophy (3 cr)  
 VTD 266 Animation (3 cr)  
 VTD 345 Advanced Modeling (3 cr)  
 VTD 371 Interactive Technologies (3 cr)

## Academic Minor Requirements

### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MINOR

LArc 156 Intro to Landscape Architecture II (1 cr)  
 LArc 389 History of Landscape Architecture (3 cr)  
 LArc 480 The Emerging Landscape (3 cr)

Courses chosen from the following (13 cr):

LArc 155 Introduction to Landscape Architecture I (1 cr)  
 LArc 210 Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture (2 cr)  
 LArc 245 Landscape Graphics I (2 cr)  
 LArc 246 Landscape Graphics II (2 cr)  
 LArc 256 Landscape Architecture 1.1 (3 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 257 Landscape Architecture 1.2 (3 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 268 Landscape Construction I (2 cr)  
 LArc 269 Landscape Construction II (2 cr)  
 LArc 288 Plant Materials I (3 cr)  
 LArc 289 Plant Materials II (4 cr)  
 LArc 299 (s) Directed Study (3-6 cr)  
 LArc 356 Landscape Architecture 3.1 (3 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 357 Landscape Architecture 3.2 (3 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 364 Summer Study Abroad Design Studio (6 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 368 Landscape Architecture Construction III (2 cr)  
 LArc 369 Landscape Architecture Construction IV (2 cr)  
 LArc 382 Landscape, Language and Culture (2 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 383 Architectural Site Design (3 cr)  
 LArc 390 Italian Hill Towns and Urban Centers (3 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 395 GIS in Land Planning (3 cr)  
 LArc 456 Landscape Architecture 5.1 (3 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 457 Landscape Architecture 5.2 (3 cr) (with instructor's permission)  
 LArc 495 Computer-Aided Regional Landscape Planning (3 cr)  
 LArc 499 (s) Directed Study (3-6 cr)

## Graduate Degree Program

Candidates must fulfill the requirements of the College of Graduate Studies and of the Department of Landscape Architecture. See the College of Graduate Studies section of Part 4 for the general requirements applicable to the degree.

**Master of Science.** The Department of Landscape Architecture offers the M.S. degree with a major in landscape architecture in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Washington State University at Pullman and the Interdisciplinary Design Institute (IDI) at Washington State University at Spokane. The program focuses on the bioregional and cultural landscape with opportunities to explore other areas of landscape architecture scholarship and theory. Students may enroll at any one of the three locations and take advantage of the faculty, facilities, and other resources offered at the other two. Graduate-level courses are cross listed and, where appropriate, offered electronically.

A minimum one year, 30 credit hour course of study that includes a thesis is required. Information on specialization tracks and the opportunity to undertake the program as an additional year beyond the 4-year accredited B.L.Arch. degree can be obtained from the department.