

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

DESIGN AND PLANNING

Urban design
Mixed use developments
Community and neighborhood design
Growth planning
Green infrastructure
Transportation Facilities (airports, train, and bus stations)
Streetscapes and transportation corridors
Retail development and lifestyle centers
Waterfront development
Corporate office facilities and campuses
Institutional facilities and campuses:
 Government buildings
 School and university campuses
Gardens and residential landscapes
Permaculture design
Recreational infrastructure:
 Public parks, park systems
 Open spaces
 Playgrounds
 Greenways, blueways
 Waterfront parks
 Golf courses
Public gathering places:
 Plazas
 Courtyards
Interpretive landscapes:
 Welcome centers
 Museums
 Land art
Memorials and cemeteries
Hospitality (resorts, hotels, convention facilities)
Wildlife refuges
Zoological parks

EMPLOYERS

Private Practice:

Landscape architecture firms
Multi-disciplinary architecture and engineering (AE) firms
Design/Build practice
Self-employed

Corporate Practice:

Private corporations
Property development and maintenance:
 Residential, commercial, and institutional builders
 Resorts, hotels, amusement parks
 Golf courses, sports complexes
 Real estate development companies
 Hospitals
Non-profit organizations:
 Zoos
 Cemeteries
 Arboreta and botanical gardens
Industry suppliers
Land management trusts
Utility companies
Resource management interests

Public Practice:

Local, state, federal government:
 Local park departments
 National Park Service
 Bureau of Land Management
 US Army Corps of Engineers
 Soil Conservation Service
 Department of Transportation
 Planning and growth management agencies
Transportation authorities: air, rail, water
Education facilities and campuses

STRATEGIES

Landscape architects steward our natural resources through sustainable planning, design, development, and management of our environment, both built and natural. With knowledge in arts, sciences, and technology, landscape architects meet the needs of society through planning design while protecting the environment.

Requirements for becoming a landscape architect vary by state and typically include a combination of education, experience, and a passing score on the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) sponsored by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). Some states require additional examinations and some offer paths to licensure without an accredited landscape architecture degree. Additionally, CLARB also offers certification which can help professionals transfer licenses from state to state. It is imperative to research your state's professional guidelines.

Most landscape architects earn either an accredited Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) or a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA), which require between four and five years of study. Or, one can earn an accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) in three years after completing undergraduate studies in a related or unrelated field.

The Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture (MALA) and Master of Science in Landscape Architecture (MSLA) degrees are appropriate for research positions in the field as well as paths that do not require licensure.

AREAS

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AND REMEDIATION

Wetlands
Mined land
Forested land
Stream corridors
Stormwater management
Historic landscapes
Brownfield remediation and redevelopment

EMPLOYERS

(Continued)

Academic Practice:

Teach and conduct research in professional programs offered by colleges and universities
Landscape architects are also found on the faculties in other disciplines including architecture, art, and planning.

STRATEGIES

(Continued)

Plan to work as an intern or apprentice under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect from one to four years prior to taking the LARE.
Pursue part-time work with a landscape design firm, landscape contractor, public agency, nonprofit organization, or public garden.
Prepare to take courses on topics including landscape design, plant sciences, soil sciences, ecology, sustainability, construction technology, and graphic communication methods (analog and digital). Geographic Information Systems (GIS), model building, and video simulation are also used in the field.
Join the student chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).
Develop strong communication skills for consulting with clients, giving presentations, and collaborating with other professionals including civil engineers, city planners, architects, contractors, etc.
Demonstrate creativity, critical thinking, craftsmanship, and time and project management skills for success in the field. Expect to work evenings and weekends as required to meet deadlines.
Most landscape architects specialize over time in practice areas within the public or private sectors.