

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, BLA

Students who enjoy art, science, technology, problem-solving, and design should consider a career in landscape architecture. Graduates with the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) influence the design and management of cities, parks, and open spaces. They often advise park managers, citizen groups, landowners, and state agencies. Landscape architects design public and private outdoor spaces, restore and help preserve natural areas, develop and implement regional planning and public policy, and revitalize urban neighborhoods. The professional Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree program focuses on form-giving design, design implementation, and professional practice. Emphasis is placed on principles of design theory and process; problem solving in relationship to human needs and aspirations, environmental awareness and stewardship; and on the development of technical proficiencies required of professional practice. Students learn site analysis, graphic communication, design synthesis, construction technology, and the social and environmental factors that are part of design.

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree program provides professional education accredited by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) (<https://www.asla.org/AccreditationLAAB.aspx>). Students completing the requirements for this program are granted a BLA degree. Completion of this program is the first step in becoming a licensed landscape architect.

Please note that students in the BLA degree program **cannot** pursue an additional major; however, they may declare and complete certificates.

HOW TO GET IN

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Admission to the professional program during the sophomore year, or in the second year of the degree plan, is on a competitive basis.

Students completing the requirements for this program are awarded a BLA degree. Because the BLA is an integrated degree program, it cannot be added as an additional major ("double major") by students pursuing other degree programs. Students who are admitted to and complete the BLA degree may not declare or be awarded additional majors in combination with the BLA degree. However, BLA students are permitted to complete certificate programs.

1. **Eligibility for Consideration into the Landscape Architecture Accredited Professional Program.** Eligibility for consideration into the Landscape Architecture Accredited Professional Program depends on fulfillment of these requirements: students apply for formal admission to the program during the spring semester of each academic year. Selections are made only once a year for the fall semester. The first round of selections takes place in early summer. All students will be notified of their status at least two weeks before the start of the fall semester. Students who plan to complete their prerequisite courses during the summer session must so indicate on their application. The department will admit up to a maximum of 30 students, as resources permit. Selection will be based on a letter of intent, written by the applicant, which will address their reasons for entering the major, submission of portfolio, and on grades

earned in the following two prerequisite courses: LAND ARC 250 **AND** LAND ARC 210 or LAND ARC 366.

2. **AND** the applicant must have completed a minimum of 24 credit hours. University GPA will be considered. For more information on the professional design degree program and the application process please go to this link (<https://dpla.wisc.edu/>).
3. **Selection Policies.** On-campus selections for admission will be made as soon as possible after spring semester grades are received.
4. **Notification of Status.** Applicants who have completed their prerequisite courses at the end of spring semester will be notified of their status between June 1 and July 1 of each year for fall semester admission. Decisions on those applicants completing prerequisites during summer session will be made as soon as grades are received.
5. **Appeal Procedures.** An appeal to the department's curriculum committee may be presented to clarify an error of fact or extenuating circumstances.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (BLA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below.

The BLA is a special degree program; it is not considered a major. The BLA degree is not available to students who intend to earn a degree outside the College of Letters & Science.

BACHELOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics	Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.
Language	Complete the third unit of a language other than English.
L&S Breadth	Complete: • 12 credits of Humanities, including at least 3 credits of Literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include 6 credits in Biological Science and 6 credits in Physical Science.
Liberal Arts & Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced Coursework	Complete at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW–Madison Experience	Complete both: • 30 credits in residence, overall, and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	• 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BLA

Code	Title	Credits
Introduction and Foundation		
LAND ARC 210	Introduction to Landscape Architecture Design Studio	3–4
or LAND ARC 366	Introduction to Architectural and Environmental Design	
LAND ARC 250	Survey of Landscape Architecture Design	3
LAND ARC 260	History of Landscape Architecture	3
Other Required Foundation Courses		
BOTANY 100	Survey of Botany	3–5
or BOTANY/ BIOLOGY 130	General Botany	
DS 221	Person and Environment Interactions	3
BOTANY/ENVIR ST/ ZOOLOGY 260	Introductory Ecology	3
LAND ARC 311	Introduction to Design Frameworks and Spatial Technologies	2
LAND ARC 380	Plants for Ecological Design I	2
LAND ARC 381	Plants for Ecological Design II	1
SOIL SCI/ENVIR ST/ GEOG 230	Soil: Ecosystem and Resource	3
or SOIL SCI 301	General Soil Science	

Intermediate Studio Sequence

LAND ARC 261	Principles of Landscape Architecture Design and Graphics	4
LAND ARC 321	Environment and Behavior Studio - Designing Health Promoting Environments	4
LAND ARC 353	Landscape Architectural Technology I	3
LAND ARC 354	Landscape Architectural Technology II	3

Professional Theory and Practice Core

LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST 361	Wetlands Ecology	3
or LAND ARC/ CHICLA 475	Latino Urbanism: Design and Engagement in the American City	
or LAND ARC 525	Social Justice and the Urban Landscape	
or LAND ARC 590	Special Topics	
or LAND ARC 668	Restoration Ecology	
or LAND ARC 677	Cultural Resource Preservation and Landscape History	
or URB R PL 411	Marketplaces and Entrepreneurship	
or URB R PL 512	Gentrification and Urban Restructuring	
or URB R PL 550	Transportation and the Built Environment	
or URB R PL 551	Climate Action Planning: Sustainable Transportation	
or URB R PL 601	Site Planning	
or URB R PL 611	Urban Design: Theory and Practice	
LAND ARC 460	Advanced Visual Communication in Landscape Architecture	3
LAND ARC 397	Internship in Landscape Architecture	1
LAND ARC 511	Geodesign Methods and Applications	3
LAND ARC 550	Professional Practice in Landscape Architecture	3
Advanced Studio Sequence		
LAND ARC 560	Plants and Ecology in Design	4
LAND ARC 562	Urban Design and Open Space Systems	4
LAND ARC 563	Designing Sustainable and Resilient Regions	4
Capstone Sequence		
LAND ARC 610 & LAND ARC 611	Landscape Architecture Capstone I and Landscape Architecture Capstone II	7

Total Credits **72**

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all LAND ARC courses and courses that count toward the BLA program
- 2.000 GPA on 15 Upper Level credits, taken in Residence ¹
- 15 credits in LAND ARC, taken on the UW–Madison campus

FOOTNOTES

¹ LAND ARC and major courses numbered 500-699 are Upper Level.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Communication A	3 Quantitative Reasoning A	4
Foreign Language (if needed)	4 Ethnic Studies	4
LAND ARC 210	4 BOTANY 100 or 130	3
LAND ARC 250	3 Elective	4
	14	15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Quantitative Reasoning B	3 LAND ARC 260	3
LAND ARC 261	4 LAND ARC 321	4
LAND ARC 380	2 LAND ARC 353	3
LAND ARC 311	2 LAND ARC 381	1
DS 221	3 SOIL SCI/ENVIR ST/ GEOG 230 or 301	3
BOTANY/ENVIR ST/ ZOOLOGY 260	3 Electives	2
	17	16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
LAND ARC 354	3 LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST 361, 475, 525, 590, 668, 677, URB R PL 411, URB R PL 512, URB R PL 550, URB R PL 601, or URB R PL 611	3
LAND ARC 397	1 LAND ARC 562	4
LAND ARC 460	3 LAND ARC 511	3
LAND ARC 560	4 Physical Science Breadth	3
Electives	3	
	14	13

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
LAND ARC 563	4 LAND ARC 611 (also meets Communications B)	4
LAND ARC 550	3 Electives	11
LAND ARC 610	3	
Literature Breadth	3	
Elective	3	
	16	15

Total Credits 120

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Demonstrate competence and critical judgement in applying intellectual and technical skills necessary for site and landscape-scale design, in particular skills of problem-solving using site inventory/analysis; spatial/temporal analysis; programming; synthesis; oral, written, and visual communication; construction implementation; and post-occupancy evaluation.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to explore ideas and synthesize information, both independently and in collaboration with interdisciplinary team members to identify and solve complicated landscape design and planning problems.
3. Understand, apply, and evaluate the principles, theories, and recent research findings in the discipline of landscape architecture.
4. Integrate humanistic, scientific, legal, political, economic, social, ecological, and technological dimensions in solving novel design and planning problems concerning the betterment of rural and urban natural and cultural landscapes.
5. Understand, analyze, and apply design and planning theories and principles to urban and rural landscapes to benefit human living conditions.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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Students are assigned to a faculty advisor once they are admitted to the major. Prospective students should contact the undergraduate academic coordinator, Debi Griffin (dagriffin@wisc.edu) for more information.

The BLA degree program provides professional education accredited by the the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) (<https://www.asla.org/AccreditationLAAB.aspx>).

Completion of this program is the first step in becoming a licensed landscape architect through the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) (<https://www.clarb.org/>)

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try "Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them," (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW-Madison students

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

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Landscape Architecture Registration Exam (<http://www.clarb.org/>)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE DISCLOSURE (NC-SARA)

The United States Department of Education (via 34 CFR Part 668 (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-VI/part-668/?toc=1>)) requires institutions that provide distance education to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure.

The expectation is that institutions will determine whether each applicable academic program meets state professional licensure requirements and provide a general disclosure of such on an official university website.

Professional licensure requirements vary from state-to-state and can change year-to-year; they are established in a variety of state statutes, regulations, rules, and policies; and they center on a range of educational requirements, including degree type, specialized accreditation, total credits, specific courses, and examinations.

UW-Madison has taken reasonable efforts to determine whether this program satisfies the educational requirements for certification/licensure in states where prospective and enrolled students are located and is disclosing that information as follows.

Disclaimer: This information is based on the most recent annual review of state agency certification/licensure data and is subject to change. All students are strongly encouraged to consult with the individual/office listed in the Contact Information box on this page and with the applicable state agency for specific information.

The requirements of this program meet certification/licensure requirements in the following states:

Wisconsin

The requirements of this program do not meet certification/licensure requirements in the following states:

Not applicable

Updated: 1 June 2025

ACCREDITATION

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Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (<https://www.asla.org/AccreditationLAAB.aspx>)

Accreditation status: Accredited. Next accreditation review: 2025.