

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, MLA

for the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture in Landscape Architecture

The Department of Landscape Architecture offers the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree, the Master of Sustainable Urban Design degree (MSUD), and the PhD degree. The programs enable students to gain fresh insights and to conduct new research pertaining to land and its use by people. Courses and faculty research activities range from on-site to regional scales, and include environmental planning and design as well as community design, cultural heritage, and history.

In their final year of the program, MLA students may take one of two paths: advanced design studio sequence or thesis.

The MLA is an accredited first professional degree. Students may pursue specialized areas that reflect their interests and career aspirations. This may include ecological design, community design, and cultural heritage history and design. Joint MLA/MUP is available.

Admission

The Graduate College admission requirements apply. Students are admitted on an individual basis according to a review of their prior accomplishments with an emphasis on academic achievement. MLA candidates from undergraduate design programs must submit portfolios with applications to the MLA program. Candidates without undergraduate preparation in landscape architecture will be admitted on limited status and must complete undergraduate prerequisite courses in addition to graduate work. All students must begin their studies in the fall semester.

Financial Aid

Students compete for fellowships, assistantships and tuition/service fee waivers. Some awards are determined during admissions review and students are informed through the acceptance letter. There are also some financial aid opportunities during the course of study (e.g., semester-long TA positions when available).

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For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Handbook (<http://www.landarch.illinois.edu/>) and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/>).

Post-Professional Master of Landscape Architecture

For students who have completed a BLA in an LAAB Accredited Program. Typically completed in 2 years.

Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
Studio		
LA 533	Planning & Design Studio I	5
LA 534	Design Workshop G-I	5
Thesis		

LA 599	Thesis Research	10
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Additional Seminars and Coursework

LA 482	Advanced Communication in Landscape Architecture	4
LA 501	Landscape Arch Theory & Prac	4
LA 513	History of World Landscapes	4
LA 597	Research Design & Methods	3

Additional Required Electives chosen in consultation with MLA Advisor

Social/Cultural Aspects of Design	
Ecology	
Method	
Total Minimum Hours	48

Advanced Studio Option

Code	Title	Hours
Studio		
LA 533	Planning & Design Studio I	5
LA 534	Design Workshop G-I	5
LA 537	Planning & Design Studio II	5
LA 539	Design Workshop G-II	5

Additional Seminars and Coursework

LA 482	Advanced Communication in Landscape Architecture	4
LA 501	Landscape Arch Theory & Prac	4
LA 513	History of World Landscapes	4
LA 597	Research Design & Methods	3

Additional Required Electives chosen in consultation with MLA Advisor

Social/Cultural Aspects of Design	
Ecology	
Method	
Total Minimum Hours	48

Pre-Professional Master of Landscape Architecture

For students who have not completed a BLA in an LAAB Accredited program, an undergraduate degree in a design field such as Architecture, and students with no design undergraduate degree. Typically completed in 2.5-3 years.

Code	Title	Hours
The following coursework is required of MLA students in the Pre-Professional degree program. These courses do not count toward the graduate degree.		
LA 241	Landform Design & Construction	3
LA 250	Environmental Site Analysis	3
LA 280	Design Communications I	3
LA 281	Design Communications II	3
LA 342	Site Engineering	4
LA 343	Landscape Construction	4
LA 346	Professional Practice	2
LA 352	Woody Landscape Plants	4

Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
Studio		
LA 433	Graduate Foundation Studio	5
LA 434	Graduate Site Design Studio	5
LA 533	Planning & Design Studio I	5
LA 534	Design Workshop G-I	5
Thesis		
LA 599	Thesis Research	10
Additional Seminars/Coursework		
LA 452	Planting Design	3
LA 482	Advanced Communication in Landscape Architecture	4
LA 501	Landscape Arch Theory & Prac	4
LA 513	History of World Landscapes	4
LA 597	Research Design & Methods	3
Additional Required Electives chosen in consultation with MLA Advisor		
Social/Cultural Factors in Design		
Ecology		
Method		
Total Minimum Hours		48

Advanced Studio Option

Code	Title	Hours
Studio		
LA 433	Graduate Foundation Studio	5
LA 434	Graduate Site Design Studio	5
LA 533	Planning & Design Studio I	5
LA 534	Design Workshop G-I	5
LA 537	Planning & Design Studio II	5
LA 539	Design Workshop G-II	5
Additional Seminars/Coursework		
LA 452	Planting Design	3
LA 482	Advanced Communication in Landscape Architecture	4
LA 501	Landscape Arch Theory & Prac	4
LA 513	History of World Landscapes	4
LA 597	Research Design & Methods	3
Additional Required Electives chosen in consultation with MLA Advisor		
Social/Cultural Factors in Design		
Ecology		
Method		
Total Minimum Hours		48

Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Minimum 400-500 level hours within 24 the Unit	
Minimum 500-level hours required overall	18
Minimum GPA	3.0

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Master of Landscape Architecture students will:

1. **Design Thinking.** Use a variety of processes to discover and frame opportunities, generate multiple possibilities, evaluate and refine ideas, rapidly prototype and test your proposal, and share your ideas in a compelling manner.
2. **Communicate with Skill.** Use a variety of digital tools to generate design proposals, test those proposals, and share your ideas with others.
3. **Tap into Existing Knowledge.** Incorporate our best understanding of natural resources, environmental systems, human development, social systems, professional practice and professional ethics into your work.
4. **Technical Competence.** Demonstrate the technical competence to translate design proposals into built work.
5. **Responsibility and Leadership.** Develop and demonstrate a sense of responsibility to the land and the people for whom we design.

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Landscape Architecture

Department Head: David L. Hays

Landscape Architecture Department website (<https://landarch.illinois.edu/>)

Landscape Architecture faculty (<https://landarch.illinois.edu/faculty/>)

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Landscape Architecture email: LADept@illinois.edu

College of Fine & Applied Arts

Fine & Applied Arts (<https://faa.illinois.edu>)

Admissions

Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)