Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Landscape Architecture offers work leading to the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree and the PhD. 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. 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 and joint MLA/MBA programs are available. The PhD program is jointly administered with the School of Architecture and emphasizes both interdisciplinary study and cross-disciplinary inquiry. Areas of concentration include history and theory; technology and environment; and behavioral and cultural factors in design. Before submitting an application, students should consult the department website for information regarding the specific areas of study and the time needed to complete the requirements.

Several faculty members in the department also participate in the doctoral program administered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. See the program description under the Department of Urban and Regional Planning for more information.

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. The doctoral program prefers candidates with master’s degrees: MLA, MArch, or related fields such as art history, ecology, geography, or planning. All graduate students must begin their studies in the fall semester.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in the PhD program.

Financial Aid

Students compete for fellowships, tuition and service fee waivers, and assistantships. Selection is based on the academic achievement and qualifications of the student.

Master of Landscape Architecture-Thesis Option

Specific courses to be taken are determined in consultation with an adviser. Some students complete a master’s thesis (LA 599), others develop a specialization through additional coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA 438</td>
<td>Design Workshop Studio II</td>
<td>3 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 470</td>
<td>Social/Cultural Design Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 501</td>
<td>Landscape Arch Theory &amp; Prac</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 597</td>
<td>Research Design &amp; Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Coursework</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Other Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internship required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Hours Required Within the 48 Unit:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum 500-level Hours Required</td>
<td>Overall: 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Master of Landscape Architecture-Specialization Option

Specific courses to be taken are determined in consultation with an adviser. Students develop a specialization through elective coursework and design studios. In their final semester, they prepare a document that describes their specialization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required Coursework</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design Studio Coursework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 438</td>
<td>Design Workshop Studio II (taken twice)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 470</td>
<td>Social/Cultural Design Issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 501</td>
<td>Landscape Arch Theory &amp; Prac</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 597</td>
<td>Research Design &amp; Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coursework, including specialization electives</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional undergraduate coursework will be required of students without a BLA. These prerequisites do not count toward the graduate degree. Required internship credit does not count towards the required 48 hours of graduate-level credit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Hours within the Unit</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum 500-level hours required overall</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship required</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Urban Planning**

For the joint program, at least 40 hours must be in Urban Planning, including all core courses and capstone requirements. The two programs must total a minimum of the sum of 40 Urban Planning hours plus the required number of hours for the Master of Landscape Architecture, 48. (However, Landscape Architecture may at its discretion count up to 8 hours of Urban Planning courses as electives in meeting its degree requirements as long as students are required to take no fewer than 40 additional hours in Landscape Architecture.) The MUP capstone requirement may be waived for a thesis completed in Landscape Architecture provided faculty from both programs participate on the thesis committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban Planning core capstone and area requirements</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 470</td>
<td>Social/Cultural Design Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 501</td>
<td>Landscape Arch Theory &amp; Prac</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialization area coursework</td>
<td>27-35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Requirements**

- Other requirements may overlap
- Minimum Hours Required within the Unit: 24
- Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall: 18
- Enrollment in each program at least 2 semesters
- Up to 8 hours of UP coursework may be applied to the LA degree at the department's discretion.
- If pursuing the thesis option, the thesis committee chair must be full-time in Landscape Architecture and one committee member must be from Urban Planning.
- Minimum GPA: 3.0

For additional details and requirements contact the department.
MBA and Master of Landscape Architecture

Students in this unit may choose to earn their major degree and simultaneously complete an MBA, with 12 fewer required hours than when pursuing both degrees independently. Students must be enrolled in the MBA program for three terms and complete all the requirements of their primary degree. Interested students should see the joint program requirements (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/bus-admin-mba/joint-mba) and contact the MBA program and their major department office for more information.