

Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning

Department Head: To be appointed

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Degrees offered: Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) and Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA); Master of Science (MS) in Bioregional Planning. BLA and first professional MLA programs are fully accredited by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Graduate specializations: *MLA*—Land Rehabilitation/Revegetation, Small Town Rehabilitation, Urban Wildlife, Visual Resource Management

Department Objectives

The objectives of the department are to (1) provide an educational and technical program responsive to current societal needs related to environmental planning, landscape architecture, and urban design; (2) give students the opportunity to participate in collaborative learning experiences with other disciplines on campus; (3) prepare students for professional careers in the private or public sector, and (4) conduct original research to advance the body of knowledge in landscape architecture, environmental planning, and design.

Undergraduate Programs

Admission and Graduation Requirements

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree program is an intensive four-year studio-based course of study, fully accredited by the American Society of Landscape Architects. Accreditation standards require the department to maintain a reasonable faculty/student ratio. Space in the program is limited by available facilities, faculty, and qualified applicants. Admission to the upper division is competitive, and is limited to students who are determined by the faculty to have the best potential for academic success. Matriculation into the upper division will normally be limited to 25 students, although additional students may be matriculated in special circumstances at the discretion of the LAEP faculty.

Any student admitted to USU is eligible for enrollment in lower-division LAEP courses. Declared LAEP majors will be advised of their relative class standing at the end of their freshman year and at the mid-point of their sophomore year, to assist in their personal academic career planning. At the end of the sophomore year, a selection process will determine which students will matriculate into the upper division of the program.

Eligibility for matriculation requires the completion of the following prerequisite courses: LAEP 1030, 1200, 1350, 2300, 2600, 2650, 2700, 2720; PLSC 2620; and ITE 1200. Students applying for matriculation must have a minimum USU GPA of 2.5.

Selection of students to be matriculated to the upper division is based on a letter of intent; a portfolio demonstrating creative potential, problem solving skills, and graphic fluency; and cumulative GPA earned in the eight LAEP prefix courses listed above. Portfolios and letters of intent are to be submitted by the last Monday in March. Detailed information regarding the letter of intent and portfolio requirements may be obtained from the LAEP Office. The final selection of students to matriculate to the upper division is a decision of the LAEP faculty. The review of students for matriculation will take place during the week following spring semester final exams, and students will be notified as soon as possible thereafter.

Students who have had LAEP courses waived or covered by articulation from another institution will have their GPA calculated only on the basis of LAEP grades actually earned at USU.

Transfer students from other programs of landscape architecture who have completed the equivalent of the lower-division USU LAEP coursework may apply for admission to the upper division of the program through submission of a portfolio, letter of intent, transcript of grades, and description of landscape architecture courses taken. Students who have previously been enrolled and matriculated into the upper division at USU, and must interrupt their education for up to three academic years, may resume their studies at the same level of the program which they departed upon returning to USU. Students who have stopped-out longer than three years must reapply, following the guidelines specified for transfer students. The decision on applications from transfer students and for readmission rests with the LAEP faculty and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Computer Requirement. Personal computer design, graphic, and operational competence is an essential component of the contemporary professional environment. Appropriate computer skills are required for most entry-level opportunities in landscape architecture and environmental planning.

Course content increasingly relies on computer skills and personal access to computers with the appropriate software.

All students entering the upper division of the BLA program must purchase, lease, or otherwise obtain continuing and uninterrupted access to a personal computer which meets the configuration requirements specified by the LAEP Department. Contact the department for current specifications.

High school students planning to major in landscape architecture may enhance their preparation with courses in art, natural sciences, social sciences, and math through college algebra.

BLA Degree. The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree is a four-year program consisting of courses relating to theory, design, history, and the various technical areas of the profession. The degree provides a substantial basis for a professional career, as well as an excellent foundation for advanced graduate studies. In addition to the courses required for upper-division status, the following LAEP courses are required for graduation: LAEP 3100, 3120, 3300, 3500, 3610, 3700, 4100, 4110, 4120, and 4920. Additional non-LAEP courses required are: MATH 1050, ASTE 3050, GEOL 3100, AWER 1200 or FRWS 2200, and SOC 3610 or 4620. Students must also complete the University Studies requirements. For more detailed information, see major requirement sheet available from the department.

Specialized Service Courses. LAEP 1030, 1200, 2300, and 3700 are available for majors in other fields who may wish to gain an exposure to the different aspects of landscape architecture and environmental planning. A minor is not given in LAEP; however, these service courses are available, without prerequisites, for those requesting them.

Graduate Programs

Admission Requirements

The application deadline for consideration in the first round of reviews is March 15. Applications received later than March 15 will be considered as space availability allows. February 1 is the application deadline for consideration for some scholarships, fellowships, and other financial aid. For general admissions requirements, see the appropriate sections of this catalog.

Computer Requirement. Personal computer design, graphic, and operational competence is an essential component of the contemporary professional environment. Appropriate computer skills are required for most entry-level opportunities in landscape architecture and environmental planning.

Course content increasingly relies on computer skills and personal access to computers with the appropriate software.

All students entering the second year of the First Professional Degree MLA program and all students entering the first year of the Advanced Professional Degree MLA program must purchase, lease, or otherwise obtain continuing and uninterrupted access to a personal computer which meets the configuration requirements specified by the LAEP Department. Contact the department for current specifications.

Master of Landscape Architecture

The program for the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) emphasizes both traditional site scale planning and design, as well as broader areas of the profession, such as large-scale regional landscape analysis and planning, and computer-aided design and planning techniques. The MLA first professional degree is fully accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The Master of Landscape Architecture program is designed to prepare the student for the landscape architect's challenging role of providing a holistic approach to environmental planning and design. In order for landscape architects to contribute effectively to an interdisciplinary effort, they must be competent in the fundamentals of landscape architecture and also have an understanding of the subject matter of other professions. Landscape architects must master the communication skills necessary to achieve meaningful collaboration. In support of this philosophy, the following are the major objectives of the MLA program.

1. To provide a well-structured curriculum in fundamental professional knowledge and skills.
2. To research, analyze, and resolve land use and design issues related specifically to the Intermountain West. The scope of the program examines national, regional, and local issues; and their impact on the visual, physical, and cultural setting of the Intermountain West.
3. To integrate field experience and research into major graduate studio courses structured around real-world projects.
4. To provide opportunities for each student for exploration and development of an area of specialization as noted elsewhere.
5. To draw upon the regional, national, and international relationships of Utah State University to facilitate a program of academic and professional excellence which will allow the student to achieve eminence in practice, research, or education.

Areas of Faculty Expertise

The Master of Landscape Architecture Program provides opportunities for each student to study and conduct research in areas which take advantage of the strengths of Utah State University and the landscape context of the Intermountain West centered around the expertise of the LAEP Department faculty, including: *Land Rehabilitation/Revegetation*—Ellsworth and Johnson; *Regional Landscape Planning*—Shapiro and Nicholson; *Visual Resources Management*—Ellsworth; *Urban Wildlife/Refuge Planning*—Johnson; *Riparian Systems*—Johnson and Bell; *Community Planning*—Nicholson, Lavoie, and Bell; *Public Lands/Recreation*—Timmons; *Urban Design/Theory*—Lavoie; *Historic Landscapes and Preservation*—Timmons.

These areas of faculty expertise include an assessment of the relevant environmental, design, social, economic, and public policy issues utilizing a wide range of computer-compatible techniques and models.

Specializations

Graduate specializations (MLA) may be designated on a student's transcript with the approval of the supervisory committee after completion of a Plan A original research thesis. There are currently four specializations: Land Rehabilitation/Revegetation, Small Town Rehabilitation, Urban Wildlife, and Visual Resource Management.

Course of Study

The graduate program director advises all incoming students until they have selected a thesis topic. A major professor whose interests are closely aligned to those of the student (see *areas of faculty expertise* above) supervises thesis work. A minimum of 30 graduate-level credits, including thesis work, is required. Students supplement requirements with courses negotiated with the major professor and supervisory committee. An outside area of emphasis

or graduate specialization (see above) may be pursued by concentrating elective coursework in another department.

The department offers two MLA programs. One is for students who have previously earned baccalaureate degrees in landscape architecture from accredited programs and the other is for students with degrees from other fields.

MLA—Advanced Professional Degree

The MLA—Advanced Professional Degree is a two-year program of study. Applicants must hold baccalaureate degrees in landscape architecture from accredited programs. The advanced degree allows outstanding students to expand their knowledge in areas of special interest under the supervision of a major professor and supervisory committee.

For information about currently required and recommended coursework, as well as other requirements for this degree, contact the LAEP Department.

MLA—First Professional Degree

A three-year program leading to the MLA degree is available for candidates with previous baccalaureate degrees in fields other than landscape architecture. The curriculum includes a substantial lecture and studio sequence designed to establish fundamental professional skills.

For information about currently required and recommended coursework, as well as other requirements for this degree, contact the LAEP Department.

Master of Science in Bioregional Planning (joint degree program with Environment and Society)

Good planning and management of natural resources and systems supersedes individual disciplines, requiring an interdisciplinary approach for the successful resolution of environmental issues. The intent of this program's curriculum is to integrate the biophysical disciplines more closely while also addressing the social and political sciences. This degree program is offered jointly by the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, and by the Department of Environment and Society in the College of Natural Resources.

This program consists of a two-year period of study with a required thesis or paper/project. To maintain a program focus, the student selects from three clusters of coursework (research methods/case studies, biophysical, and social/economic policy). A minimum of 36 graduate-level credits, including 3-6 credits of thesis or paper/project is required. A capstone course is required for all LAEP students. The program contains a total of nine elective credits from which the candidate and his or her committee can formulate an area of emphasis.

Course of Study

This two-year MS program is comprised of an interdisciplinary core of courses and faculty for addressing complex issues in the areas of bioregional planning and management. Emphasis is placed on four problematic content areas: biophysical, social/demographic, economic, and public policy. The spatial focus is on the planning for large landscape areas with dispersed populations with a primary economic base in agriculture, energy development, tourism/recreation, retirement communities, and natural resources.

The program requires a minimum of 36 graduate-level credits, including 3-6 credits of work on a thesis or paper/project. Nine of the required credits may be in an area of emphasis. These nine credits are to be negotiated with the candidate's major professor and supervisory committee. Requirements for the MS in Bioregional Planning are as follows:

Required. Environment Systems Research Institute (ESRI) certification course or ENV5 6900 (Geographic Information Systems), LAEP 6740, and ENV5 6900 (Shipley Seminar/NEPA/EIS).

Research Methods/Case Studies (3-4 credits). One of the following courses is required: FRWS 6500, SOC 6100, 6150.

Biophysical (3-4 credits). One of the following courses is required: FRWS 5400, 6710, AWER 6330. For those students without a background in ecology, FRWS 4600 is also required. Credits earned for FRWS 4600 or equivalent *do not apply* to the graduate program.

Social/Economic Policy (3-4 credits). One of the following courses is required: ENV5 6000, POLS 5180, or SOC 6630.

Capstone Course (5 credits). LAEP 6100 is required *for all LAEP students*.

Area of Emphasis (9 credits). Nine credits should be available to the candidate for an area of emphasis.

Thesis or Project (3 or 6 credits). A thesis or Plan B paper/project option is required and is to be negotiated with the candidate, major professor, and supervisory committee.

Total Credits: 36-39

Environmental Field Service

Practical Education and Community Service. The department sponsors a program of planning and design services in which MS, MLA, and BLA students may participate. The Environmental Field Service program offers students the opportunity to interact with community leaders and citizens and to test concepts and skills acquired in the classroom while working on real projects.

Internships and Cooperative Education

Many students take advantage of the practical learning opportunities available through internships and cooperative education programs. The department, student, and government agency or private firm make the necessary arrangements. Internships and cooperative education experiences are not required for degree completion. In some cases, these experiences may be used as the basis for waiver of selected courses, subject to approval in advance by the major professor, graduate program director, and department head. Students completing these experiences are required to make a summary presentation to department faculty and students.

Financial Assistance

The application deadlines for scholarships and financial assistance vary. For current application deadline information, contact the LAEP Department, the USU Financial Aid Office, and the School of Graduate Studies. Acceptance to pursue graduate study does not guarantee the student financial assistance.

Career Opportunities

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning provides education for careers in landscape architectural site planning, design, environmental planning, and management, with special consideration for conditions in the Intermountain West. Graduates are employed by local, state, and federal agencies, as well as by private sector professional firms. LAEP graduates also find employment in academia at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Faculty

Sumner Margetts Swaner Professor

Tamara F. Shapiro, regional landscape planning

Professors

John C. Ellsworth, visual resources management, computer applications, and disturbed lands rehabilitation

Craig W. Johnson, planting design, land rehabilitation, wildlife habitat planning and design

Associate Professors

David L. Bell, residential design, landscape construction, and community planning and design

Caroline Lavoie, urban design/theory

John K. Nicholson, urban and regional planning, and computer applications

Michael L. Timmons, site planning and design, recreation planning, and landscape history

Associate Professor Emeritus

Vern J. Budge, landscape construction and recreation planning

Adjunct Instructor

David G. Garce

Lecturer

Kristofor L. Kvarfordt, design visualization, illustration graphics, 3-D design development

Course Descriptions

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