

# LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

## Program Description

Landscape architecture is the art of design, planning, or management of the land and of the natural and built elements upon it. As an academic discipline, it embodies creative, cultural, philosophical, and scientific knowledge bases. As a professional discipline, the practice of landscape architecture includes site design, urban design, master planning, community planning, regional planning, resource conservation, and stewardship.

The Minor in Landscape Architecture allows greater accessibility to the knowledge domains within the professional accredited Landscape Architecture major. The minor, as a non-professional opportunity, provides students with a broad understanding of the history, practice, and theories of how landscape architecture shapes the world, as well as the opportunity for more specialized study in selected topics.

The minor is flexible so that students can tailor their course choices to accommodate individual interests. Students should seek the advice of the minor adviser for course selection.

This minor is appropriate for students wishing to gain a greater understanding of the landscape architecture discipline as it complements many other professions dealing with natural systems management, site and urban design, master planning (community and regional), graphic information systems, resource conservation and stewardship, and landscape history/preservation.

## What is Landscape Architecture?

Landscape architecture is an important "change agent" design profession for the 21st century addressing both social and environmental challenges of our times. Landscape architects are licensed professionals who design places that have beneficial impacts on the health and resilience of our ecosystems, our communities, and ourselves—places of delight, of wonder, of comfort, and of respite that include parks, plazas, arboreta, campuses, gardens, memorials, green roofs, interactive installations, commercial centers, transportation corridors, waterfront developments, and so much more. In all of their efforts, Landscape architects are guided by commitment to social, environmental, and economic benefit. All of this makes landscape architecture "the most exciting 21st century design profession that you've probably never heard of."

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You are creative, active, involved.
- You want to be an agent of change and solve problems.
- You are passionate about sustainability.
- You are fascinated by people and cultures; inspired by history and traveling.
- You like technology and hands-on work.
- You enjoy working with a team and you want to design for the 'big' issues.

- You want to engage with art, nature, and design to unlock powerful solutions for the complex issues of today and tomorrow.

## Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

### Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AA 121	Design Thinking and Creativity	3
LARCH 60	Cultural History of Designed Places	3
LARCH 125	Landscape Architecture Orientation Seminar	1
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 11 credits of the following: <sup>1</sup>		11
ARCH 497	Special Topics	
LARCH 65	Built Environment and Culture: Examining the Modern City	
LARCH 115	Design I: Intro Spatial Composition	
LARCH 116	Design II: Spatial Design	
LARCH 145	Ecology and Plants I	
LARCH 155	Skills Lab I: Hand & Digital Graphics	
LARCH 156	Skills Lab II: Hand & Digital Graphics	
LARCH 235	Design Implementation I: Grading	
LARCH 245	Ecology & Plants II	
LARCH 246	Ridge & Valley in the Field	
LARCH 256	Skills Lab IV: GIS	
LARCH 276	Human Dimensions of Design: History & Theory	
LARCH 365W	Contemporary Trends in Landscape Architecture	
LARCH 375	Human Dimensions of Design - Applied	
LARCH 424	Design Theory Seminar	
LARCH 450	Geodesign: Geospatial Technology for Design	
LARCH 495	Internship	
LARCH 496	Independent Studies	
LARCH 497	Special Topics	
LARCH 499		

<sup>1</sup> 6 credits must be at the 400 level

## Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

## University Park

### Bonj Szczygiel

Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture  
431 Stuckeman Family Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-8596  
[bxs28@psu.edu](mailto:bxs28@psu.edu)

## Career Paths

Penn State Landscape Architecture graduates are well-prepared to join our distinguished professional alumni network and make an immediate impact on the world. The Landscape Architecture minor is designed to provide students with a robust background in creativity, technical skills, and ethical considerations. Careers or graduate study can lead to a diverse array of focus areas, including sustainability, urban planning, research, social or environmental justice, design, ecology, social health and well-being, technology, construction, or community outreach.

## Careers

The world is constantly changing, and landscape architects are skilled designers poised to shape, drive, and responsibly steward these changes. Penn State landscape architects are artists, ecologists, engineers, scientists, sociologists, conservationists, and often, leaders. The profession enables you to connect with your passion. Engage with art, nature, and design. Build spaces, places, and experiences. Collaborate. Solve problems. Design a better future. Landscape Architecture studies will prepare you with leading-edge technical design principles and a foundation in technologies and design-thinking methods so that you can pursue a wide range of opportunities.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (<https://sites.psu.edu/stuckemancareers/>)

## Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Landscape Architecture Minor students may opt to pursue advanced degrees to gain specialized expertise or to undertake professional licensure. Penn State's M.S. in LA is a research-focused degree in which students hone expertise in a targeted area of the profession. The M.L.A. professional program prepares students for professional practice. Penn State also offers an online graduate certificate and a Master in Professional Studies degree program in Geodesign, an exciting, new, design and planning strategy that harnesses big data to ensure wise decisions grounded in the triple bottom line of sustainability: environmental, social, and economic good.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://arts.psu.edu/academics/department-of-landscape-architecture/>)

## Contact University Park

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
121 Stuckeman Family Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-865-9511  
[larch@psu.edu](mailto:larch@psu.edu)

<https://arts.psu.edu/academics/department-of-landscape-architecture/>