

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Degree Requirements

Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The M.L.A. curriculum develops creative insight and the knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to professional practice, fulfilling the education requirement needed in all states to be eligible to take the Landscape Architecture licensing examination. Students in the M.L.A. degree program must also develop research understanding characteristic of graduate education, undertaking a research-based design project as a final cumulative experience to demonstrate their understanding and application of appropriate and professional research and design expertise.

The M.L.A. curriculum requires completion of 57 credits of graduate work at the 400, 500, or 800 level, including a minimum of 47 credits at the 500 or 800 level, with at least 6 credits at the 500 level. In addition, to fulfill the requirements of professional accreditation, students must undertake 15 credits of prerequisite courses that do not count towards the M.L.A. degree requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Requirements for Professional Accreditation (Prerequisites):		
LARCH 60	Cultural History of Designed Places	3
LARCH 145	Ecology and Plants I	3
LARCH 276	Human Dimensions of Design: History & Theory	3
LARCH 365W	Contemporary Trends in Landscape Architecture	3
LARCH 386	Professional Practice	3
Total Credits		15

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
LARCH 414	Design and Theory V: Advanced Landscape Architectural Design	10
LARCH 815	Grad Studio I	6
LARCH 816	Grad Studio II	6
LARCH 817	Grad Studio III	6
LARCH 835	Grad Implementation I: Grading	3
LARCH 836	Grad Implementation II: Materials	3
LARCH 837	Grad Implementation III: Plants	3
LARCH 838	Grad Implementation IV: Stormwater	3
LARCH 501	Research and Writing in Landscape Architecture	3
LARCH 502	Intellectual History and Theory of Landscape Architecture	3
LARCH 510	Graduate Seminar in Landscape Architecture	3
LARCH 590	Colloquium	1
Culminating Experience		
LARCH 551	Final Culminating Experience Proposal ¹	1
LARCH 552	Final Culminating Experience Production ¹	4

LARCH 553	Final Culminating Experience Documentation & Presentation ¹	2
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Total Credits 57

¹ The final culminating experience for the M.L.A. is a capstone project completed while enrolled in LARCH 551, LARCH 552, and LARCH 553.

Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

The core curriculum is a two-year research-focused program requiring a minimum of 40 credits including a minimum of 18 credits at the 500 or 600 level. Students are required to take graduate level coursework, including 12 credits of Graduate Seminar, 4 credits of Graduate Colloquium, 3 credits of Research Writing in Landscape Architecture, 3 credits in Intellectual History and Theory of Landscape Architecture, 3 credits in quantitative/qualitative analysis at the 500 level (which must be approved in advance by the student's adviser and/or the graduate program professor-in-charge), and at least 6 credits in thesis research (600 and 610). The student and the student's adviser, subject to the approval of the departmental Graduate Program Committee, determine specific course requirements. The thesis must be accepted by the adviser(s) and/or committee members, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School, and the student must pass a thesis defense.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
A 500-level course in quantitative/qualitative analysis		3
LARCH 501	Research and Writing in Landscape Architecture	3
LARCH 502	Intellectual History and Theory of Landscape Architecture	3
LARCH 510	Graduate Seminar in Landscape Architecture	12
LARCH 590	Colloquium	4
Electives		
The remaining elective credits may be chosen from a list of approved electives maintained by the program office.		9
Culminating Experience		
LARCH 600	Thesis Research (On Campus)	6
Total Credits		40