LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape Architecture is an environmental design discipline. Landscape architects actively shape the human environment: they map, interpret, imagine, draw, build, conceptualize, synthesize, and project ideas that transform landscapes. The design process involves creative expression that derives from an understanding of the context of site (or landscape) ecosystems, cultural frameworks, functional systems, and social dynamics. Students in our program learn to change the world around them by re-imagining and re-shaping the landscape to enhance its aesthetic and functional dimensions, ecological health, cultural significance, and social relevance. The profession addresses a broad range of landscapes in urban, suburban, rural, and wilderness settings. The scale of landscape architecture projects varies from broad, regional landscape analysis and planning to detailed, individual site-scale designs. The curriculum at Iowa State prepares students for this challenge as they develop their abilities to design and communicate ideas through a sequence of foundational courses and studios. The program seeks to produce graduates who understand the ethical, social, and environmental/ecological dimensions of issues involving changes in the landscape.

Graduates are active in a broad range of careers, such as sustainable site design, land development, park management, environmental advocacy, community planning, urban design, and others. In their professional lives, graduates apply their creative and technical skills in the planned arrangement of natural and constructed elements on the land with a concern for the stewardship and conservation of natural, constructed, and human resources. The resulting environments serve useful, aesthetic, safe, and enjoyable purposes. Graduates are able to communicate effectively with colleagues in the sciences and humanities as well as in the allied professions, and are prepared to work individually and in multidisciplinary teams to address complex problems dealing with the cultural/ecological environment.

The undergraduate curriculum includes one year of the college’s Core Design Program followed by a four-year professional program. Admission to the professional program is subject to the approval of a faculty committee at the completion of the Core Design Program. The department also cooperates in the undergraduate minor in Design Studies, Critical Studies in Design, and Digital Media.

Following admission to the professional program, students embark on the traveling studio during the fall semester of their second year. This studio is a full semester’s credit of integrated departmental courses and involves extensive travel within and beyond the great Midwest region of North America, to study regional natural systems and the cultural responses to those systems.

To enhance the study of landscape architecture in off-campus settings, the department requires students to choose from among the following three options during the spring and summer of their fourth year: a professional internship, an independent study abroad experience, or National Student Exchange. The department assists students with placement, and additional information is provided through the department and the College of Design’s Career Services Office.

Personal laptop/notebook computers and appropriate software are regularly used in classes starting with the second year.

The undergraduate curriculum is fully accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) and provides the education which, combined with experience, is necessary for professional license.

Curriculum in Landscape Architecture

The department offers graduate and undergraduate degree programs.

The undergraduate program consists of a five-year curriculum, requiring 149.5 credits, leading to the degree Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. These credits are distributed between a one-year Core Program of 30 credits and a four-year professional program of 119.5 credits.

Admission into the professional program depends upon available resources and is subject to the approval of a faculty committee at the completion of the Core Design Program. Applicants are reviewed on the basis of academic performance, a portfolio of original work, and a written essay.

The BLA from Iowa State University is an LAAB (Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board)-accredited professional degree program. In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for professional licensure. The LAAB is the sole entity recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to accredit U.S. first professional degree programs in landscape architecture at the Bachelor’s and Master’s levels.

The department also offers a graduate program leading to the degrees of Master of Landscape Architecture or Master of Science in Landscape Architecture. For more complete graduate program descriptions, contact the department or go to the Graduate program link on the College of Design web page.

Total Degree Requirement: 149.5 cr.

Only 65 cr. from a two-year institution may apply which may include up to 16 technical cr.; 9 P-NP cr. of free electives; 2.00 minimum GPA.

International Perspective: 3 cr.
U.S. Diversity: 3 cr.
Communications: 10 cr.
(C or better grade)

ENGL 150 Critical Thinking and Communication
### Humanities: 9 cr.
9 cr. from Phil, Hist, Music or other humanities course offerings.

### Social Sciences: 6 cr.
6 cr. from Anthr, Econ, Pol S, Psych, or Soc.

### Mathematics and Science: 12 cr.
One of the following:
- MATH 140: College Algebra
- MATH 145: Applied Trigonometry
- MATH 165: Calculus I (4 crs)
- ENV S 120: Introduction to Renewable Resources

Science Elective 3 cr.

### Additional General Education Course 3 cr.
3 cr. from 300-400 Level Courses

### Design Core: 11.5 cr.
- DSN S 102: Design Studio I 4
- DSN S 115: Design Collaborative Seminar 0.5
- DSN S 131: Design Exchange Seminar I 4
- DSN S 131: Design Representation 4
- DSN S 183: Design Cultures 3

Total Credits 11.5

### Landscape Architecture: 89 cr.
- L A 201: Studio: Landscape Interpretation and Representation 6
- L A 202: Studio: Site Design I 6
- L A 221: Native Plants of the Savanna Ecotone 3
- L A 222: Introduced Plants of the Midwest 3
- L A 241: Developing Identity as a Landscape Architect 1
- L A 272: Cultural Landscape Studies 3
- L A 274: The Social and Behavioral Landscape 3
- L A 281: Investigating Landscape Form, Process, and Detail 3
- L A 282: Landscape Dynamics 3
- L A 301: Site Design II 6
- L A 302: Ecological Design at the Regional Scale 6
- L A 341: Contemporary Landscape Architecture 1
- L A 371: History of Modern Landscapes, 1750 to Present 3
- L A 373: Gardens and Landscapes from Antiquity to 1750 3
- L A 381: Shaping the Land 3
- L A 401: Community Design 6
- L A 402: Urban Design 6
- L A 444: Landscape Architecture Independent Educational Enrichment
- L A 442: Professional Practice 2
- L A 481: Landscape Construction 3
- L A 482: Advanced Landscape Construction 3
- DSN S 546: Interdisciplinary Design Studio 6

Plus ten credits professional electives 10

Total Credits 89

### Electives: 13 cr.
Complete electives sufficient to complete graduation requirements.

### First Year

#### Fall
- DSN S 102 or DSN S 131 4
- DSN S 115 0.5
- Soc. Sciences/Humanities Elective 3
- ENGL 150 or 250 3
- Soc. Sciences/Humanities Elective 3
- MATH 145 3

#### Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSN S 102 or DSN S 131</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>DSN S 115</td>
<td>0.5 Soc. Sciences/Humanities Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSN S 183</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>DSN S 102 or DSN S 131</td>
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<td>ENGL 150 or 250</td>
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<td>Soc. Sciences/Humanities Elective</td>
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<td>Soc. Sciences/Humanities Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 145</td>
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<td>MATH 145</td>
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Total Credits 16.5

#### Second Year

#### Fall
- L A 201 | 6 | L A 202 | 6
- L A 221 | 3 | L A 274 | 3
- L A 241 | 1 | L A 222 | 3
- L A 272 | 3 | L A 282 | 3
- L A 281 | 3 | Elective | 3

16 | 18
### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>L A 301</td>
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<td>L A 302</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>L A 381</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>L A 341</td>
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<td>L A 373</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>L A 371</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV S 120</td>
<td>3 Social Science/Humanities Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 250</td>
<td>3 Math/Science Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
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### Fourth Year

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>L A 402</td>
<td>6 One of the following:</td>
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<td>L A 481</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>L A 444A</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science/Humanities Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>L A 444B</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA electives</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>L A 444C</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications (300 level English)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DSN S 301 (Rome option only)</td>
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<td></td>
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### Fifth Year

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<tr>
<td>L A 401</td>
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<td>DSN S 546</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA Electives</td>
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<td>L A 442</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science/Humanities Elective (300 level)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L A 482</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA Electives</td>
<td>3 Electives/LA Electives</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Elective</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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Additionally: Each student needs to take 3 credits of a US Diversity (usually covered by LA 272) and 3 credits of an International Perspectives course (usually covered by LA 373). Students also need to take at least 6 credits of 300 level or above in the combined areas of communication, science, math, humanities, and social science (6 total from all the areas).

### Graduate Study

The department offers two primary opportunities for professional and postprofessional study: the M.L.A. degree (Master of Landscape Architecture), which provides the skills and knowledge for the application of research and or/scholarly methods to professional practice and the M.S.L.A. degree (Master of Science in Landscape Architecture), which focuses on research on the built environment. Students are also able to pursue double degrees of M.L.A. with Master of Community and Regional Planning (MLA/MCRP), Master of Urban Design (MLA/MUD), and Master of Design of Sustainable Environment (MLA/Mdes SE). Minor work is offered to students taking major work in other departments.

The M.L.A. is an accredited professional degree designed for students with or without an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture. The degree provides skills and knowledge as measured by the licensing exam for students seeking to practice as a licensed professional in the public or the private sectors. The M.L.A degree also offers competency for students interested in post professional study and research. Minor work is offered to students taking major work in other departments.

The program offers three concentration tracks in the following topical area – Theory/Urbanism, Technology/Ecology, Advocacy/Community – through coursework and/or an optional thesis and creative component. The concentration in one of the three tracks will be determined by the student in consultation with his/her major professor. It will also be designated in the Program of Study (PoS), to be completed by the end of the first year of study. Concentration electives may be selected from within the department and college and from an approved list. In their final year students will be able to take Creative Component or Thesis option with the approval of their major professor and the department Graduate Committee.

The M.S.L.A. is an unaccredited, research degree addressing landscape architecture as a scholarly endeavor. The degree is primarily intended as an advanced professional degree targeted at students already possessing an accredited first professional degree (B.L.A., B.Arch, M.Arch, etc.) and wishing to pursue in-depth, independent research. The M.S.L.A. is granted upon completion of 36 credits (at least 30 of which are completed at the 500-level) and the acceptance of a thesis or creative component. Periodically, students without accredited, first professional design degrees wish to complete an unaccredited master’s degree in landscape architecture. Such students may, in special cases, be allowed to pursue an M.S.L.A., provided they take an additional 12 credits of coursework, at least 6 of which must be an approved design studio, for a total of 48 hours of coursework.

Students interested in the double degree programs should contact the departments to receive a detailed description of requirements. The department also offers courses in the Graduate Certificate Program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), administered by the Department of Community and Regional Planning. Students are able to take advantage of increasing offerings of interdisciplinary graduate-level electives in all college departments.

**Design and Planning: 33 cr.**

L A 601 Design Representation
L A 602 Studio I – Land/Form & Plant/Scape 6
L A 603 Studio II – Living Systems 6
L A 604 Studio III - City Matters 6
L A 605 Studio IV - LandWorks/LandDigits 6
DSN S 546 Interdisciplinary Design Studio 6
or 2 cr. L A 580 Thesis, Creative Comp. Tutorial + 4 cr. L A 599
Creative Comp. or L A 699 Thesis

Theory/History/Urbanism: 14 cr.
L A 571  Landscape Architectural Theory 3
L A 590D  Special Topics: History/Theory/Criticism 3
or L A 578D: LA History elective*
Concentration Theory Elective *** 3
L A 543 Colloquium I 1
L A 545 Colloquium II 1

Technology/Ecology/Materiality: 14 cr.
L A 557 Computer Applications 3
L A 583 Landscape TopoGraphics 3
L A 581 Landscape Structure 3
L A 542 Professional Practice & Enterprise 2
L A 522  Advanced Plant Technology 3

Advocacy/Planning/Policy: 9 cr.
SUS E 531  Human Dimensions of Sustainability 3
L A 593 Environmental Justice in Built Environments 3
Planning Elective** 3

Concentration Electives: 9 cr.
E elective: 3 cr.
Total 82 cr.

Approved Distribution Electives:
LA History elective (3cr.)*
Courses offered on term-by-term basis
L A 590D: Special Topics: History
L A 578D: Landscape Architecture: History

Planning elective (3cr.)**
L A 591: Environmental Law and Planning
C R P 561: Planning Theory for Practice
C R P 592: Land Use and Development Regulation Law
C R P 529: International Planning in Developing Countries

Theory elective (3 cr.)***
Theory course in your concentration area (Theory, Technology or
Advocacy) – Select from CRP, ARCH, MUD, SUS E, IND D, or other relevant
field in the college or university

Concentration Track Electives
1. Theory/History/Urbanism MLA/MUD
2. Advocacy/Planning/Community MLA/CRP
3. Technology/Ecology/Materiality MLA/MDES SE

Concentration track electives from approved list on separate sheet
Students may also take courses from other departments across college

Elective
3 cr. Non-LA course from college or university courses (incl. LA 509: Field Trip)