Landscape Architecture

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The Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture prepares students for research and practice while focusing on the design, planning, and management with special emphasis on tropical and subtropical landscapes. The unique natural and cultural environments of South Florida, tropical America, the Bahamas, and the Antilles provide firsthand experience of a wide range of landscapes; the study, enrichment, and preservation of which are emphasized through relevant course work, field trips, and service activities. The Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, Fairchild Tropical Garden, and Vizcaya Palace and Gardens are among the many regional resources readily available to students enrolled in the program. Our goal is to educate individuals who can serve and lead the community in the enhancement of the quality of life through the aesthetic, meaningful, and sustainable design of the physical environment.

The Master of Landscape Architecture provides professional degree tracks within a rigorous academic framework intended for individuals with or without pre-professional degrees in landscape architecture.

The Three-Year Track, a first-professional Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is for persons who hold an undergraduate degree in a field other than landscape architecture, and intend to become landscape architecture practitioners. Applicants to the program need to check with the College Advising Center to obtain prerequisite course information.

The Two-Year Track is a professional degree for individuals with an undergraduate degree in planning, urban design, architecture, or interior design from an accredited program, or with a pre-professional undergraduate degree in planning, landscape architecture, urban design, architecture, or interior design.

The One-Year Track is a professional degree for individuals with a graduate degree planning design, urban design, or architecture from an accredited professional program.

Students may also choose to earn the MLA through the **Accelerated MLA Track**. The Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program provides a seamless course of study leading from undergraduate freshman year to the conferral of the Professional Master of Landscape Architecture degree. The Accelerated MLA is comprised of 155 credit hours of integrated pre-graduate and graduate coursework. The degree consists of 71 credit hours of pre-graduate coursework taken over two years followed by 84 credit hours of graduate coursework.

Undergraduate to Graduate Standing

Students will be evaluated for matriculation to graduate status based upon their graduate GPA at the end of the spring semester of their 4th year (provided they have earned a minimum of 120 total credits). The criteria listed below must be satisfied:

1. A minimum of 120 earned credits (counting no more than 60 lower-division transfer credits),
2. 3.0 of higher GPA in graduate level coursework (5000 level of higher), and
3. Completion of undergraduate coursework.

A Bachelor degree is not awarded at any point in the program.

The first professional Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree is fully accredited by The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), an autonomous committee of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The Post- Professional Degree Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture (MALA) is intended for individuals with a professional undergraduate degree in landscape architecture who wish to undertake research, teach and pursue advanced study.

The department maintains close ties with architecture, and interior design professionals. Professional advisory boards periodically review the curriculum to maintain program relevance.

Students applying to the Landscape Architecture Department should plan for the financial aspects of a design education. This includes the costs of computers, software, travel and field trips, tools and equipment, and modeling supplies. All students must have continuing access to a laptop computer through purchase, lease or other arrangements. For further information contact the Advising Center.

Ownership of Student Work

Student work, submitted to the department in satisfaction of course or degree requirements, becomes the physical property of the department. However, students retain all rights to the intellectual property of such work. This work may include papers, drawings, models, and other materials. The department assumes no responsibility for safeguarding such materials. At its discretion, the department may retain, return, or discard such materials. The department will not normally discard the materials of currently enrolled students without giving the student a chance to reclaim them.

Students must petition the department in writing for any deviation from the established policies.

Admissions Requirements for Graduate Degrees in the Landscape Architecture Department

All applicants must meet University graduate admissions requirements. Applicants to the Landscape Architecture Department degree programs must also submit a portfolio of creative work for departmental review.

The portfolio review examines evidence of creative ability, academic success, and professional achievement. It is an important component of the admissions process. The deadline for portfolio submission is February 1st of each year. Portfolios submitted after this date will be considered if studio space is available. Portfolio requirements can be reviewed through **www.fiula.com**.

Students who have successfully completed the portfolio review process must also meet the minimum requirements of an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university with undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution to be fully admitted in the graduate program. When the academic record is less than 3.0

GPA, the applicant must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.

Progression Requirements

No grade below a 'C' will be accepted for graduation in required courses or required electives.

Study Abroad

Study abroad is an important component of the Department of Landscape Architecture. Our study abroad center is located in Genoa, Italy. The Genoa center is ideally situated in the historic center of the city in a renovated former convent dating from the 13th century. During the semester abroad option in Italy, students are afforded the opportunity to study those artistic, architectural, landscape and interior spaces and artifacts that have long been acknowledged for their exceptional and enduring value to Western design culture. Other travel options may be available. Departmental approval is required for participation.

Thesis Requirement

Graduate students in the landscape architecture department are required to undertake a master's project or a master's thesis as part of their course of study at the Department of Landscape Architecture. Selection of Master's Thesis requires departmental approval.

Master of Landscape Architecture

Professional Degree Tracks
(Accredited by LAAB)

THREE-YEAR TRACK – 84 Credits

A professional degree for individuals with a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science or equivalent, from an accredited institution. Leveling courses may be required for students without a design background. These are in addition to degree requirements.

Typical Curriculum

Leveling Courses (Summer B Semester) - 9 Credits

LAA 5605	Design Foundations	3
LAA 5346	Visual Notation in Landscape Architecture I	3
LAA 5371	Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture I	3

First Year (Fall Semester)

LAA 5716	History of Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 5374	Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 2	3
LAA 5653	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 1	6

First Year (Spring Semester)

LAA 5541	South Florida Landscapes	3
LAA 5381	Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 3	3
LAA 6654	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 2	6

First Year (Summer Semester)

LAA 6382	Analysis Methods	3
Elective		3

Second Year (Fall Semester)

LAA 5422	Landscape Development	3
LAA 6521	Tropical Landscapes	3
LAA 6655	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 3	6

Second Year (Spring Semester)

LAA 5235	Theory of Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 6656	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 4	6
Elective		3

Second Year (Summer Semester)

LAA 6916	Research Methods	3
LAA 5423	Landscape Construction	3

Third Year (Fall Semester)

Directed Elective		3
LAA 6910	Graduate Seminar	3
LAA 6363	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 5	6

Third Year (Spring Semester)

LAA 5425	Landscape Documentation	3
LAA 6215	Professional Practice in Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 6970	Master's Project	6
	or	
LAA 6971	Master's Thesis	6

(Departmental Approval Required)

TWO-YEAR TRACK – 60 Credits

A professional degree for individuals with an undergraduate degree in planning design, urban design, or architecture from an accredited program, or with a pre-professional undergraduate degree in planning design, landscape architecture, urban design, architecture, or interior design. Advanced standing may be granted, not to exceed 24 credits for undergraduate courses with a grade of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 point scale.

Typical Curriculum

Typical for holders of Bachelor of Arts in Architecture or Bachelor of Design in Architectural Studies, if 24 credits of advanced standing are granted.

First Year (Fall Semester)

LAA 5716	History of Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 5422	Landscape Development	3
LAA 6655	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 3	6

First Year (Spring Semester)

LAA 5235	Theory of Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 5541	South Florida Landscapes	3
LAA 6656	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 4	6

First Year (Summer Semester)

LAA 6916	Research Methods	3
LAA 6382	Analysis Methods	3
LAA 5423	Landscape Construction	3

Second Year (Fall Semester)

LAA 6521	Tropical Landscapes	3
LAA 6910	Graduate Seminar	3
LAA 6363	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 5	6

Second Year (Spring Semester)

LAA 5425	Landscape Documentation	3

LAA 6215	Professional Practice in Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 6970	Master's Project	6
	or	
LAA 6971	Master's Thesis	6

(Departmental Approval Required)

ONE-YEAR TRACK – 36 Credits

A professional degree for individuals with a graduate degree in planning design, urban design, or architecture from an accredited professional program. Advanced standing may be granted, not to exceed 48 credits for graduate courses with a grade of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 point scale. Satisfactory completion of 36 credits in the following course of study is required.

First Year (Summer Semester)

LAA 6916	Research Methods	3
LAA 6382	Analysis Methods	3
Directed Elective		3

First Year (Fall Semester)

LAA 6363	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 5	6
LAA 6910	Graduate Seminar	3
LAA 5422	Landscape Development	3
LAA 6521	Tropical Landscapes	3

First Year (Spring Semester)

LAA 5541	South Florida Landscapes	3
LAA 5425	Landscape Documentation	3
LAA 6970	Master's Project	1-6
	or	
LAA 6971	Master's Thesis	1-6

(Departmental Approval Required)

Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture - 36 credits

Post-Professional Degree
(Not eligible for accreditation by LAAB)

A post-professional degree for individuals with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from a program accredited by LAAB. One year of full-time study in residency is normally required. A part-time study option is available subject to the review and approval of the Program.

Satisfactory completion of 36 credits in the following course of study is required.

First Year (Summer Semester)

LAA 6916	Research Methods	3
LAA 6382	Analysis Methods	3
LAA 6247	Modern Landscape Architecture	3
Directed Elective		3

First Year (Fall Semester)

LAA 6363	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 5	6
LAA 6910	Graduate Seminar	3
Directed Elective		6

First Year (Spring Semester)

LAA 5249	Catalyst of the Urban Canvas	3
LAA 5235	Theory of Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 6970	Master's Project	1-6
	or	
LAA 6971	Master's Thesis	1-6

(Departmental Approval Required)

Certificate in Landscape Architecture

The Certificate in Landscape Architecture offers students the ability to explore the design, planning, and management of regional landscapes. This program is developed to serve graduate students who would like to seek to expand their academic experience with this area of specialized study. Focused on landscape design and development, the certificate seeks to extend students' skills, knowledge, and critical thinking about the design, making, and managing of existing and built landscape environments. Students who wish to earn the Certificate in Landscape Architecture should contact the Advising Center at the College of Architecture and The Arts in advance of pursuing this course of study.

Certificate Requirements

Students earning this certificate must accumulate 18 credit hours with a satisfactory grade from the following list of available courses.

Program Requirements

LAA 5371	Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture I
LAA 5331	Site Analysis and Design
LAA 6247	Modern Landscape Architecture
LAA 5233	Theory of Planting Design
LAA 5716	History of Landscape Architecture
LAA 5541	South Florida Landscapes
LAA 5422	Landscape Development
LAA 6521	Tropical Landscapes
LAA 5423	Landscape Construction
LAA 5235	Theory of Landscape Architecture
LAA 5425	Landscape Documentation

Courses on the list may require prerequisites and/or program approval.

Awards and Scholarships

The following scholarships and awards are presented to students fully admitted to the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in their studies.

American Society of Landscape Architects Awards. On nomination by the Program faculty, the American Society of Landscape Architects awards a Certificate of Honor and a Certificate of Merit to the two students who have demonstrated a high degree of academic scholarship and of accomplishments in skills related to the art and technology of landscape architecture.

Sigma Lambda Alpha Honor Society. Each year, upon nomination by the Program faculty, the Alpha Chi Chapter of the Sigma Lambda Alpha Honor Society inducts the outstanding students in the Program.

The Ernest and Virginia Makemson Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund. This fund provides support for students who have demonstrated interest and experience in restoring and preserving Florida's natural and cultural environment through the practice of landscape architecture.

Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes

LAA-Landscape Architecture
F-Fall semester offering; S-Spring semester offering; SS-Summer semester offering.

LAA 5233 Theory of Planting Design (3). Study of principles and methods related to the ecological, functional, and aesthetic use of vegetation in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5235 Theory of Landscape Architecture (3). Critical review of the environmental parameters, morphological concepts and ideological principles that generate form and meaning in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5716. (S)

LAA 5243 Regional Landscape Issues (3). Exploration of the landscape as cultural construct of social, economic, and scientific values relevant to regional issues of land use and management. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5249 Catalysts of the Urban Canvas (3). Seminar-based course exploring the relationship of focused landscape and architectural interventions in the evolution and development of the urban fabric and its physical context.

LAA 5331 Site Analysis and Design (3). Introduction to ecological, functional, and aesthetic considerations in site analysis, planning and design. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 5346 Visual Notation in Landscape Architecture I (3). Course will develop drawing skills in multiple media, actively engaging in projects of drawing as a medium of investigation, documentation, memory, observation and presentation for landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 5371 Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 1 (3). Computer applications of graphics, modeling, and animation techniques used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (S)

LAA 5374 Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 2 (3). Computer application of drafting and design techniques used in landscape architecture. Prerequisites: LAA 5371, Program approval. (F)

LAA 5378 GIS Applications in Landscape Modeling (3). Introduction to modeling capabilities of GIS in the environmental planning process addressing the natural and cultural characteristics of the landscape. Prerequisite: Program Approval. (SS)

LAA 5381 Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 3 (3). Contemporary methods of digital representation for landscape architecture. Intensive exploration if three dimensional modeling and rendering techniques. Prerequisites: LAA 5371, LAA 5374, program approval.

LAA 5422 Landscape Development (3). Technical aspects of the design and specification of earthwork, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape development. Prerequisite: LAA 5371. (F)

LAA 5423 Landscape Construction (3). Technical aspects of the design and specification of sitework, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape construction. Prerequisite: LAA 5422. (S)

LAA 5425 Landscape Documentation (3). Production of landscape documents including drawings and project manual, bidding documents, contract documents and technical specifications on the computer. Prerequisite: LAA 5423. (S)

LAA 5427 Landscape Structures (3). Production of landscape construction details for structures and systems used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5423. (F)

LAA 5540 Landscape Horticulture (3). Overview of horticultural management practices related to the growth, transport, installation, and maintenance of vegetative materials used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5541 South Florida Landscapes (3). Study of structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical Florida. Prerequisite: Program approval. (S)

LAA 5605 Design Foundations (3). The course is a rigorous introduction to design fundamentals. It builds a design language through lectures, practical experiences, exploring techniques, materials, skills, making and critical thinking. Prerequisite: Program approval. Corequisites: LAA 5346 and LAA 5371.

LAA 5652 Formative Studio (6). Introduction to concept development, spatial expression, and representational techniques in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5346 and LAA 5xxx Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture. (F)

LAA 5653 Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 1 (6). Application of landscape architecture principles and methods to site design in tropical and subtropical contexts. Prerequisite: LAA 5652. (S)

LAA 5715 History and Theory of Architecture (3). Overview of the history and theory of architecture and urban design from antiquity to the present. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5716 History of Landscape Architecture (3). Historical survey of the principal sites and traditions manifested in the evolution of landscape architecture and urban design from antiquity to the present. Prerequisite: Program approval. (F)

LAA 5905C Special Topics Design Studio (6). A landscape architectural design studio based on a particular aspect of landscape architectural design and relevant ideologies under the direction of appropriate faculty. Prerequisite: Program Approval.

LAA 5938 Cejas Eminent Scholar Seminar (1-3). This is a seminar/workshop course taught by distinguished educators, scholars, and designers. Lectures, critical readings, and discussions of thematic topics make up the methodology of the course.

LAA 5940 Landscape Architecture Internship (3). Advanced issues in professional practice learned through work experience with a licensed professional.

LAA 6215 Professional Practice in Landscape Architecture (3). Study of the ethical, legal, financial, and managerial aspects of professional practice in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (S)

LAA 6222 Communications in Landscape Architecture (3). Methods of verbal and graphic presentations, workshops, and publications used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 6245 Theory of Urban Design (3). Critical review of the principal theories of urbanism that have influenced the fabric and image of the city in Western history. Prerequisites: LAA 5235 and LAA 5716. (SS)

LAA 6246 Typology of Landscape Architecture (3). Critical examination of the origin, development and transformation of form and meaning in modern and postmodern landscape architecture and urban design. Prerequisites: LAA 5235 and LAA 5716. (SS)

LAA 6247 Modern Landscape Architecture (3). Critical review of the origins and development of modern and post modern expressions in landscape architecture. Prerequisites: LAA 5235 and LAA 5716. (SS)

LAA 6342 Landscape Aesthetics (3). Critical review of the assessment models used to evaluate the aesthetic quality of the landscape. Prerequisites: LAA 5235 and LAA 5716. (SS)

LAA 6347 Italian Design and Culture (3). Course to develop practical facility with the Italian language for conducting everyday tasks, engaging socially and increasing the qualitative depth of the work to be accomplished in the course. Corequisites: LAA 6348, LAA 6910, LAA 6656.

LAA 6348 Landscape Architecture of the City (3). The study of urban landscape architecture in Genoa, Italy, with emphasis on analysis and representation using manual drawing, digital photography, and conceptual model. Corequisites: LAA 6347, LAA 6910, LAA 6656.

LAA 6363 Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 5 (6). Application of interdisciplinary principles and methods to contemporary landscape architecture issues through the design of projects varying in scale and complexity. Prerequisites: LAA 5653, LAA 6654, LAA 6655, LAA 6656.

LAA 6373 Sound in Landscape Architecture (3). An examination of the ecological, acoustic, aesthetic, and historical aspects of the sonic environment. Prerequisites: LAA 5235 and LAA 5716. (SS)

LAA 6382 Analysis Methods (3). Theories and methods of the organization, analysis, and interpretation of cartographic data using geographic information systems. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 6521 Tropical Landscapes (3). Study of the structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical regions. Prerequisite: Program approval. (F)

LAA 6551 Sustainable Landscapes (3). Study of the principles that sustain a balance between natural resources and human aspirations in the landscapes of tropical and subtropical regions. Prerequisite: LAA 6541. (SS)

LAA 6654 Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 2 (6). Application of landscape architecture principles and methods to community planning and design in tropical and subtropical contexts. Prerequisite: LAA 5653. (F)

LAA 6655 Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 3 (6). Application of landscape architecture principles and methods to regional management, planning, and design in tropical and subtropical contexts. Prerequisite: LAA 6654. (S)

LAA 6656 Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 4 (6). Application of interdisciplinary principles and methods to urban planning and design in tropical and subtropical contexts. Prerequisite: LAA 6655. (F)

LAA 6745 Preservation of Landscape Architecture (3). Critical examination of the formation and preservation of historic sites with emphasis on interpretation, analysis and evaluation of cultural landscapes and urban places. Prerequisites: LAA 5235 and LAA 5716. (SS)

LAA 6905 Independent Study (1-6). Coursework on a particular aspect of landscape architecture under the direction of faculty in an individual study format. Prerequisite: Program approval. (F,S)

LAA 6910 Graduate Seminar (3). Coursework under the direction of faculty in preparation for a master's thesis or master's project in landscape architecture. Prerequisites: LAA 6382, LAA 6916. (F)

LAA 6916 Research Methods (3). Methods of data acquisition, analysis, and interpretation used in landscape architecture research. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 6936 Special Topics (1-3). Coursework on a particular aspect of landscape architecture under the direction of faculty in a classroom format. Prerequisite: Program approval. (F,S,SS)

LAA 6970 Master's Project (1-6). Coursework under the direction of faculty for the completion of project by candidate for the degree Master of Landscape Architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 6910.

LAA 6971 Master's Thesis (1-6). Coursework under the direction of faculty for the completion of a research or design thesis by candidate for the degree Master of Landscape Architecture. Prerequisites: Program approval and LAA 6910. (S)