

Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design

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The Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design (LAEUD) Department focuses on the development of the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities appropriate to the practice of landscape architecture, with a special emphasis on tropical and sub-tropical environments and urban design. Situated between two of the richest coastal and inland ecosystems in the world, Miami presents unparalleled opportunities as an important design laboratory. The city's multilingual, diverse, and ever-expanding needs reflect what many parts of the world will look like in the coming decades. Our focus on leveraging landscape architecture in urbanized regions and especially in tropical and subtropical environments makes for a program that is profoundly relevant to addressing the issues that will affect the estimated six of the ten billion people who will live in similar parts of the world by 2100.

Our goal is to educate individuals who can serve and lead the community through the aesthetic, meaningful, and sustainable design of the physical environment. Our program focuses on design and draws from art, science and technology via a rich design studio sequence that benefits from small student-to-faculty ratios, cutting edge technology, individual workspaces, and study abroad options. Students explore environmental, ecological and urban issues, and propose innovative solutions in the design of public spaces, infrastructure, urban planning, industrial reclamation, ecotourism, environmental mitigation, and many other areas at the center of the relationship between human beings and their surroundings.

The **Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)** provides professional degree tracks within a rigorous academic framework intended for individuals with or without pre-professional degrees in landscape architecture. The MLA is structured into three tracks.

The Three-Year Track (MLA3), 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 (MLA2) is a first professional degree for individuals with an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture or architecture from an accredited program, or with a pre-professional undergraduate degree landscape architecture or architecture.

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 or teach and pursue advanced study.

For students seeking to begin their professional design studies as undergraduates, the Landscape Architecture Department offers the **Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)**, which 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.

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.

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.

Admissions Requirements

All applicants must meet University graduate admissions requirements. Applicants must also submit a portfolio for departmental review that demonstrates the candidate's creative aptitudes. The design portfolio is evaluated based on a candidate's demonstrated sense of composition, attention to detail, graphic communication skills, expressive quality, and sense of space, accuracy, and observation.

Design portfolios may include two-dimensional storyboards (a sequence of still images that show a story), computer printouts, and photographs of three-dimensional models/projects.

Digital design portfolios should be formatted to fit on 8.5" x 11" pages within a single, multi-page PDF file. Please refer to the departmental website for submission details.

Portfolios submitted after the Application Deadline will be considered if studio space is available. Details on portfolio requirements can be reviewed through the departmental website.

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 into the graduate program. When the academic record is less than 3.0 GPA, the applicant must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Check the department website for updated application deadlines: <http://carta.fiu.edu/landscape/academics/graduate/admissions/>

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, or other materials. The department assumes no responsibility for safeguarding such materials and at its discretion may retain, return, or discard such materials. Students must petition the department in writing for any deviation from these established policies.

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 are 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 (Departmental Approval Required) | 6 |

TWO-YEAR TRACK – 60 Credits

The Two-Year Track (MLA2) is a first professional degree for individuals with an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture or architecture from an accredited program, or with a pre-professional undergraduate degree landscape architecture or architecture. Admission to the two-year track is contingent upon review of applicant's portfolio and transcripts by department faculty to determine that applicants have demonstrated the knowledge and skills equivalent to students who have completed the first year of the three year track (MLA3).

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 |
| LAA 6971 | Master's Thesis | 6 |

(Departmental Approval Required)

Master of Landscape Architecture 4+2 Program

The professionally accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree is 84 credits, of which 12 will be taken during the student's final undergraduate year, and will count toward the student's bachelor's degree. Only 5000-level or higher courses are applicable.

Students in all undergraduate programs at FIU are eligible for the 4+2 combined degree program. Students will apply to the MLA program during their third year of undergraduate studies, after successfully completing 60 undergraduate credits.

Applicants must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 to be admitted into the 4+2 combined degree program.

Leveling Courses (Summer B Semester) - 9 Credits, to be taken during the summer between the student's Junior and Senior years

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| 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) - 6 Credits, to be taken during the student's final undergraduate year

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| LAA 5653 | Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 1 | 6 |
|----------|--|---|

First Year (Spring Semester) - 6 Credits, to be taken during the student's final undergraduate year

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| LAA 6654 | Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 2 | 6 |
|----------|--|---|

First Year (Summer Semester)

| | | |
|----------|------------------|---|
| LAA 6382 | Analysis Methods | 3 |
| | Elective | 3 |

Second Year (Fall Semester)

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| LAA 5374 | Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 2 | 3 |
| 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 5381 | Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 3 | 3 |
| LAA 6656 | Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 4 | 6 |

Elective

| | | |
|--|----------|---|
| | Elective | 3 |
|--|----------|---|

Second Year (Summer Semester)

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|---|
| LAA 6916 | Research Methods | 3 |
| LAA 5423 | Landscape Construction | 3 |

Third Year (Fall Semester)

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| LAA 5716 | History of Landscape Architecture | 3 |
| | 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 5541 | South Florida Landscapes | 3 |
| LAA 6215 | Professional Practice in Landscape Architecture | 3 |
| LAA 6970 | Master's Project | 6 |

Master of Arts in Urban Design- 36 credits**(Not eligible for accreditation by LAAB)**

A graduate degree for individuals with a Bachelor or Master of Architecture, a Bachelor or Master of Landscape Architecture, a Bachelor or Master of Interior Architecture, a Bachelor or Master of Science or Arts, a Bachelor or Master of Public Administration. The Master of Arts in Urban Design (MAUD) is a 36- credit graduate degree program that enables students to pursue interdisciplinary studies in advanced environmental urban design. As an environmental design based program, the MAUD combines collaborative design instruction, applied research, and knowledge of urban theory, planning, and economics. One year of full-time study in residency is normally required. Satisfactory completion of 36 credits in the following course of study is required.

Prerequisites for non-design degree students (Summer B Semester)

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|---|
| LAA 5605 | Design Foundations | 3 |
| LAA 5346 | Visual Notations in LSCP ARCH | 3 |
| LAA 5371 | Computer Practices 1 | 3 |

First Year (Fall Semester)

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| LAA 6245 | Theory of Urban Design | 3 |
| LAA 5331 | Site Analysis of Design | 3 |
| PAD 6717 | GIS Application for Urban Management | 3 |
| PAD 5805 | Economic Development and Urban Revitalization | 3 |

First Year (Spring Semester)

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| LAA 6656 | Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 4 | 4 |
| LAA 5249 | Catalysts of the Urban Canvas | 3 |
| URP 6315 | Introduction to Urban Planning and Growth Management | 3 |

First Year (Summer Semester or Second Year Fall Semester)

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|----------|-------------------|-----|
| | Directed Elective | 3 |
| | Directed Elective | 3 |
| LAA 6970 | Master's Project | 1-6 |

(Departmental Approval Required)

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 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 of 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 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 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 5945 Internship Experience (0). Experience in landscape architecture practice learned through work with licensed professionals.

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 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 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 6347 Italian Design and Culture (3). Course describes evolution of culture and aesthetics & their immediate relationship with creation of these works. Consists of site visits & class lectures. Add'l readings & project for grad students. Corequisites: LAA 6348, LAA 6910, LAA 6655 or LAA 6656.

LAA 6348 Landscape Architecture of the City (3). The study of urban design and landscape architecture in Genoa, Italy, with emphasis on analysis and representation using manual drawing, digital photography, and conceptual models. Corequisites: LAA 6347, LAA 6910, LAA 6655 or 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 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 6390 Digital Landscapes: Techniques in Landscape Representation (3). Application of 3d modeling methods, basic lighting, graphics post-production and photomontage setup using Maya and other 3d software in order to produce high-quality renderings. Basic knowledge of Maya & Photoshop required. Prerequisites: LAA 5381 or ARC XXX equivalent.

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 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 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)