Landscape Architecture

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The Landscape Architecture 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 landscapes. 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. For students seeking to begin their professional design studies as undergraduates, the Landscape Architecture Department offers the Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA). The Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program provides a seamless course of study leading from undergraduate freshman year to the conferment 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. At the conclusion of 71 credit hours of pre-graduate study, students move directly to graduate study. A transition from undergraduate to graduate standing occurs at the end of the fourth year Spring semester after completion of 120 credits. Students must be in good standing with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. A Bachelor degree is not awarded at any point in the program. The department maintains close ties with the architecture, and interior design departments in the college, and with landscape architecture professionals. Professional advisory boards regularly 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. Students must also have continuing access to a laptop computer through purchase, lease or other arrangements. For further information contact the CARTA Student Services & Advising Center.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadline: February 1

The department admits students once a year to begin their course work in the fall semester; therefore, it is recommended that interested applicants meet with a member of the college’s Student Services and Advising Center during the Fall semester prior to the application deadline. Admission to the department is competitive and is not guaranteed. Admission will be offered based on space availability to those applicants judged by the Department Faculty Committee to have the greatest potential for successful completion of the program. The department offers professional degrees in Landscape Architecture. The curriculum is composed of two years of foundational, undergraduate coursework followed by three (or four) years of focused graduate course work leading to the professional accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree. The department does not award the pre-professional bachelors degree. Undergraduate students may apply for admission into the first year or the third year of the program. Students of the program are considered undergraduate students until they have accumulated 120 credit hours; therefore, freshman and transfer applicants must apply to both FIU’s Undergraduate Admissions Office and to the appropriate department. Students accepted for admission in the first year or the third year of the department’s program, and who are in good academic standing after having completed 120 credit hours, are automatically converted to graduate student status.

Undergraduate Admissions
http://admissions.fiu.edu
Department of Landscape Architecture
http://soa.fiu.edu/land_architecture.htm

First Year Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the University’s admission requirements and submit a design portfolio – please refer to the Design Portfolio Requirements section.

Third Year Transfer Student Admission Requirements

Applicants for third year admission must meet the University’s admission requirements and submit a design portfolio – please refer to the Design Portfolio Requirements section. Applicants must meet the University’s admission requirements: minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0; successful completion of the CLAS requirement; completed design studio courses 1 through 4 with a grade of ‘C’ or better; and be judged by the Faculty Admissions Committee to have passed a competitive portfolio review. Only grades of ‘C’ or higher (2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale) are accepted for transfer of applicable prerequisite and core courses from other institutions. No grade below a ‘C’ will be accepted for graduation in required courses or required electives.

Third Year Native Student Admission Requirements

FIU undergraduate students who wish to change their major to landscape architecture should check program requirements and be advised by the college’s undergraduate advisors well in advance of application for admission. Departmental approval is required.

Design Portfolio Requirements

As part of the department’s admission review process, all students are required to submit a design portfolio demonstrating the candidate’s creative aptitudes as well as their level of design. 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. The design portfolio should be formatted...
Study abroad is an important component of the degree program. 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 an 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 required for participation.

**Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture**

**Degree Program Hours: 155**

The accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture program provides a seamless course of study leading from undergraduate freshman year to the conferral of the Professional Master of Landscape Architecture degree (MLA). 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. At the conclusion of 71 credit hours of pre-graduate study, students in good standing with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA move directly to graduate study. A transition to the Graduate school occurs at the completion of 120 credits hours of the required curriculum. Students must be in good standing with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA. No Bachelor degree is awarded in the accelerated MLA degree path.

The degree program emphasizes integrative learning shared with the architecture and interior design programs at the pre-graduate level through a 2-year foundational curriculum.

Graduates from the accelerated degree program have exceptional preparation for professional practice, and are superbly prepared for leadership within the profession.

- It is the goal of the accelerated MLA track to educate individuals to 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 program aims at developing critical thinking skills and provides specialized value-added education to produce graduates that are skilled, articulate and committed to advance the profession of landscape architecture.

**Pre-Graduate Preparation**

Students should enroll in Lower Division design courses in the first semester they attend FIU or their progress through the curriculum will be delayed. Seats for the Pre-Graduate course of study are limited and cannot be guaranteed to all students.

**Progression Requirements**

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

Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher at the conclusion of 120 credit hours to continue in the program.

**Pre-Graduate Level Course Requirements (71)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC 1131</td>
<td>Design Graphics 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC 1132</td>
<td>Design Graphics 2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC 1301</td>
<td>Design Studio 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARC 1302</td>
<td>Design Studio 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARC 2303</td>
<td>Design Studio 3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARC 2304</td>
<td>Design Studio 4</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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ARC 1461  Materials and Methods of Design  3
ARC 2580  Structures and Systems  3
ARC 2701  History of Design from Antiquity to the Middle Ages  3
ARC 2702  History of Design from the Renaissance to the XIX Century  3
ARC 4058  Fundamentals of Digital Design  3

Course requirements also include 36 credits of general education coursework.
Courses are selected from the following categories:

**Verbal Communication (9)**
ENC 1101  Writing and Rhetoric I  3
ENC 1102  Writing and Rhetoric II  3
COM 3110  Business and Professional Communication  3

**Environmental Context (9)**
MAC 1114  Trigonometry  3
PHY 2023  Survey of General Physics  3
EVR 1017  The Global Environment and Society  3

**Cultural Context (9)**
HUM 3306  History of Ideas  3
PHI 2103  Critical Thinking  3
PHI 2600  Introduction to Ethics  3

**Creative Context (9)**
ARH 4450  Modern Art  3
ARH 4470  Contemporary Art  3
and one course selected from:
ART 2300C  Beginning Drawing  3
ART 2500C  Beginning Painting  3
ART 2750C  Beginning Ceramics  3

**Graduate Level Course Requirements (84)**
All accelerated MLA students must complete the following requirements or their equivalent. A minimum of 84 semester hours is required to graduate:
LAA 6497  Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 1  6
LAA 6498  Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 2  6
LAA 6499  Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 3  6
LAA 6500  Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 4  6
LAA 6501  Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 5  6
LAA 5716  History of Landscape Architecture  3
LAA 5374  Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture II  3
LAA 5541  South Florida Landscapes  3
LAA 5381  Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture III  3
LAA 6382  Analysis Methods  3
LAA 6521  Tropical Landscapes  3
LAA 5422  Landscape Development  3
LAA 5425  Landscape Documentation  3
LAA 5235  Theory of Landscape Architecture  3
LAA 5940  Landscape Architecture Internship  3
LAA 6916  Research Methods  3
LAA 5423  Landscape Construction  3
LAA 6910  Graduate Seminar  3
LAA 6970  Master’s Project  6
LAA 6215  Professional Practice in Landscape Architecture  3

Directed Electives  9

**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 undergraduate students within the School of Architecture and in related fields such as Environmental Science and Biological Sciences 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 a School of Architecture undergraduate advisor 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 3372L  Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture  3
LAA 3333  Site Analysis and Design  3
LAA 4242  Modern Landscape Architecture  3
LAA 3232  Theory of Planting Design  3
LAA 3712  History of Landscape Architecture  3
LAA 3602  South Florida Landscapes  3
LAA 3802  Landscape Development  3
LAA 4546  Tropical Landscapes  3
LAA 3420  Landscape Construction  3
LAA 5381  Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture II  3

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

**Course Descriptions**

**Definition of Prefixes**
LAA-Landscape Architecture; URP-Urban and Regional Planning
F-Fall semester offering; S-Spring semester offering; SS-Summer semester offering.

LAA 3212  Landscape Documentation (3). Production of landscape construction documents, including drawings and project manual with bidding documents, contract documents and technical specifications on the computer. Prerequisites: LAA 3802, LAA 3420, ARC 4058 or equivalent.

LAA 3232  Theory of Planting Design (3). An introduction to the study of principles and methods related to the ecological, functional, and aesthetic use of vegetation in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3248  Catalysts of the Urban Canvas (3). Seminar-based course exploring the relationship of focused landscape and architectural interventions in the evolution
LAA 3333 Site Analysis and Design (3). Introduction to ecological, functional, and aesthetic considerations in site analysis, planning and design.

LAA 3343 Visual Notation in Landscape Architecture I (3). Course will focus on technique, through exercise and assignments of varying degrees of complexity to explore and develop a range of skills necessary to develop confidence in drawing landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.


LAA 3354C Landscape Architecture Design 6 (4). Development of design proposals applying principles and methods in landscape architecture within a tropical and sub-tropical context. Regional mid-sized to large scope scale projects. Prerequisites: LAA 3712, LAA 3802. Corequisites: LAA 3420, LAA 3602.

LAA 3372L Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture (3). Advanced study of computer software packages applicable to the architecture office environment, with particular emphasis on CAD software, graphics packages and desktop publishing. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3377C GIS Applications in Landscape Modeling (3). Introduction to modeling capabilities of GIS in the planning process addressing the natural and cultural characteristics of the landscape. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3420 Landscape Construction (3). Technical aspects of the design and specification of sitework, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape construction. Prerequisites: LAA 3802, ARC 4058 or equivalent.

LAA 3430 Landscape Structures (3). Production of landscape construction details for structures and systems used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3602 South Florida Landscapes (3). Study of the structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical regions. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3712 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. Prerequisites: ARC 2701, ARC 2702.

LAA 3802 Landscape Development (3). Technical aspects of the design and specification of earthwork, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape development. Prerequisites: ARC 4058 or equivalent.

LAA 3905C Special Topics Design Studio (4). A landscape architectural design studio based on a particular aspect of landscape architectural design under the direction of appropriate faculty.

LAA 3936 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 4210 Professional Office Practice (3). An introduction in office administration, negotiation of contracts, fee structure, professional ethics, client and public relations. Business organization, procedure scheduling and task allocation. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 4230 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: Program approval.

LAA 4242 Modern Landscape Architecture (3). Critical review of the origins and development of modern and post modern expressions in landscape architecture.

LAA 4344 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 4354C, LAA 4345.

LAA 4345 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 4344, LAA 4354C.

LAA 4354C Landscape Architecture Design 7 (4). Exploration of form, circulation and spatial contexts for the design of urban sites. Consideration of cultural and natural factors addressing intermediate to large scale complexity. Prerequisites: LAA 3420, LAA 3602. Corequisite: LAA 4375C.

LAA 4355C Landscape Architecture Design 8 (4). Exploring contemporary landscape architecture issues through the design of projects varying in scale and complexity. Prerequisite: LAA 4354C. Corequisites: LAA 4210, LAA 3212.

LAA 4375C Computer Modeling (3). This course will explore computer modeling in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 4546 Tropical Landscapes (3). The study of the structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical regions. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 4940 Landscape Architecture Internship (3). Advanced issues in professional practice learned through work experience with a licensed practitioner. Prerequisites: LAA 3350C, LAA 3354C, LAA 4354C.

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 5310 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. (SS)

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 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. (F)

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 5343 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.

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.

URP 5316 Environmental and Urban Systems (3). Overview of basic issues and principles of environmental and urban planning and design systems. Emphasis will be placed on multi-disciplinary linkages.
URP 5912 Research Methods (3). Methods of information search, data interpretation, and hypotheses formulation used in the field.