

Landscape Architecture

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Landscape Architecture Building

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Graduate study leading to a Master of Landscape Architecture degree is offered in the Department of Landscape Architecture; thesis and non-thesis options are available. Students in the program have the opportunity to work with faculty on a wide range of research and design topics within the profession of landscape architecture. Special program emphasis is placed on watershed planning, landscape management, and community planning and design. The design studio courses broadly consider landscape issues related to water, health, and habitat in an effort to achieve the department's mission of "fostering the will and ability to plan, design, build and manage regenerative communities."

Admission

The applicant to the M.L.A. program should have a minimum GPA of 2.80 on a 4.00 scale. A student without a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from an accredited program may undertake the M.L.A. as a first professional degree but is required to undertake additional "leveling" coursework to ensure competency in the field; this typically requires an additional year of study. Submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores is recommended but not required. The applicant's submission should include a letter of interest that includes a written statement (no more than 1500 words) explaining his or her interest in pursuing graduate studies in landscape architecture at Mississippi State University. Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic work, motivation, and character should accompany the application. The applicant should also submit a detailed résumé. Applicants with degrees from allied fields (such as architecture or civil engineering) should submit a portfolio if they wish to be considered for course reductions during the leveling year. Contact the department's graduate coordinator for additional information.

Accelerated Program

Highly qualified undergraduates (GPA of 3.0 or higher) in professional design programs are encouraged to apply to the Accelerated MLA Program. This program permits students to earn up to 16 hours of graduate level coursework during their junior and senior years of undergraduate studies. Students take graduate level courses and earn both undergraduate credit and graduate credit simultaneously. Students need to consult with a potential graduate advisor to ensure graduate credit could be applied to a Program of Study for the graduate degree. Application to this program may be made at the end of the sophomore or the junior year (i.e., after completion of 60 or more hours of graded undergraduate courses). Students interested in applying to the Accelerated Program should contact the Department of Landscape Architecture's Graduate Coordinator for more details.

Master of Landscape Architecture - Thesis

Core Courses

LA 6113	Design Theory and Criticism	3
LA 8513	Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio I	3
LA 8711	Seminar in Watershed Planning and Management	1
LA 8523	Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio II	3
LA 8721	Seminar in Landscape Management	1
LA 8533	Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio III	3
LA 8731	Seminar in Community Based Planning	1
LA 8741	Proposal Writing Seminar	1
LA 8751	Seminar in Contemporary Design Issues	1
LA 8613	Research Methods in Landscape Architecture	3
Approved Graduate-level Elective		3

Other Requirements

LA 8000	Thesis Research/ Thesis in Landscape Architecture	6
Select one of the following:		4
ST 8114	Statistical Methods	
SO 8274	Graduate Social Statistics I	

Total Hours

33

A thesis proposal will be developed for presentation to and approval by the graduate committee. The graduate committee is comprised of not fewer than three graduate faculty, at least two of whom must be from the Department of Landscape Architecture. The candidate's graduate committee must approve the thesis and administer a final oral examination or thesis defense. The thesis must be submitted to the members of the committee for approval at least fourteen days prior to a scheduled defense.

Master of Landscape Architecture - Non-Thesis

Core Courses

LA 6113	Design Theory and Criticism	3
LA 8513	Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio I	3
LA 8711	Seminar in Watershed Planning and Management	1
LA 8523	Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio II	3
LA 8721	Seminar in Landscape Management	1
LA 8533	Landscape Architecture Graduate Studio III	3
LA 8731	Seminar in Community Based Planning	1
LA 8741	Proposal Writing Seminar	1
LA 8751	Seminar in Contemporary Design Issues	1
LA 8613	Research Methods in Landscape Architecture	3
Graduate-level Elective		3

Other Requirements

LA 6124	Landscape Architecture Construction V: Construction Documents	4
LA 6443	Exterior Design-Build Studio	3
LA 6514	Ecological Planting Design	4
LA 8545	LA Studio IV-Case Study ¹	5

Total Hours

39

¹ Non-thesis student must have a signed proposal prior to entering LA 8545. The proposal must include the course instructor and one additional graduate faculty member from the department who will serve as an advisor.