Program Description

Degree Awarded: MLA Landscape Architecture

The MLA program at ASU is designed to enable students to engage with the community in projects that focus on improving the ecological and social health of the urban environment. Emphasis is on sustainable outdoor environments. In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure.

The graduate landscape architecture program projects can include large-scale work encompassing urban design, landscape reclamation, open space preservation planning and landscape ecological design, and projects at the more intimate scale of a neighborhood park or residential backyard. Emerging areas of focus include biotechnical design, construction of greenways, green roofs, living walls, urban agriculture as well as the design of healing environments.

As an accredited Master of Landscape Architecture degree program, the curriculum is intended to prepare students for landscape architecture professional practice and advanced study at the doctoral level. The Design School is committed to the merging of global and local contexts and concerns and, toward this end, graduate students in their final year go abroad for two weeks as part of their studio course. To date, students have traveled to Argentina, England, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Rwanda, Spain and Turkey. The school also offers a number of summer study abroad programs in an effort to extend the student opportunities for global engagement.

Since 2011, when the first class of students graduated with master's degrees in landscape architecture, ASU alumni have found employment with nationally recognized landscape architects, in multinational firms and within public municipalities and agencies.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
- **Location:** Tempe campus
Degree Requirements

56 credit hours and a thesis, or
56 credit hours including the required applied project course (LDE 593), or
56 credit hours including the required capstone course (LDE 622)

**Required Core (15 credit hours)**
LDE 521 Advanced Landscape Architectural Studio I (5)
LDE 522 Advanced Landscape Architectural Studio II (5)
LDE 621 Advanced Landscape Architectural Studio III (5)

**Research (9 credit hours)**
DSC 598 Topic: Principles of Collaboration in Design (3)
LPH 513 Research in LA Seminar (3)
LPH 598 Topic: Landscape Architecture Research (3)

**Electives (8 to 9 credit hours)**

**Other Requirements (18 credit hours)**
LAP 584 Internship (1)
LAP 584 Internship (2)
LPH 598 Topic: Current Issues and Topics in Landscape Architecture (3)
LPH 598 Topic: Urban Landscape Water Systems and Management (3)
LPH 691 Topic: Landscape Architecture Seminar (3)
LTC 598 Topic: Planting Design (3)
LTC 598 Topic: Landscape Construction III (3)

**Culminating Experience (5 or 6 credit hours)**
LDE 593 Applied Project (5) or
LDE 599 Thesis (6) or
LDE 622 Advanced Landscape Architectural Studio IV (5)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students take 8 to 9 credit hours of design professional electives depending on the culminating experience.
Students should see the academic unit for an approved course list.

For the research and other requirements sections, other courses may be used with approval of the academic unit.
**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. online graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. a portfolio, letter of intent and contact information of three references submitted via SlideRoom (https://asudesign.slideroom.com/#/Login)
4. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. The minimum score for admission to the program is 80 (Internet-based) or 550 (paper-based) on the TOEFL or an overall band score of 6.5 on the IELTS. Other information can be found at https://students.asu.edu/graduate/proficiency.

The Design School requires that the portfolio, letter of intent and reference information be submitted in addition to the Graduate College application requirements.

Applicants are encouraged to report GRE scores, especially if the applicant's background is broad or other than a traditional design major, but it is not required.

Admission to the program is selective. Admission cannot be deferred; students must enroll in the semester for which they are admitted; otherwise, they will need to go through the entire application process again for the year in which they are applying.

A personal interview is not required; however, a candidate wishing to visit the school is welcome and should make arrangements by contacting the department.

Applicants may be admitted to the program with deficiencies if their previous coursework is not equivalent to the ASU undergraduate requirements and standards. If a student is assigned any deficiency coursework by the academic unit upon admission, those courses must be completed with a grade of "B" (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) or higher before completing the graduate program's required coursework. As an MLA student assigned deficiencies, there are two pathways: the three-year plus pathway with up to 42 credit hours beginning in the
summer, and the other being the two-year plus pathway with up to 15 credit hours beginning in the spring.

Deficiency courses may include:

- ALA 235 Introduction to Computer Modeling
- APH 509 Foundation Seminar
- LAP 254 Plant Materials (3)
- LAP 352 Ecosystems and Sustainable Design
- LDE 590 Topic: Foundation Landscape Architectural Studio
- LDE 590 Topic: Core Landscape Architectural Studio I
- LDE 590 Topic: Core Landscape Architectural Studio II
- LPH 310 History of Landscape Architecture
- LPH 311 20th Century Landscape Architecture
- LTC 343 Landscape Construction I
- LTC 344 Landscape Construction II

Admission requirements to the two-year pathway: applicants must have completed a four-year bachelor's degree with a major in landscape architectural studies or be a licensed landscape architect. The undergraduate degree must be granted by an institution that offers the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredited degree program in landscape architecture.

Admission requirements to the two-year plus pathway: applicants must have earned a undergraduate or graduate degree in architecture, urban design, landscape design, planning, urban design, or a related design field.

Admission requirements to the three-year plus pathway: applicants must have earned a minimum of a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in a field other than landscape architecture.

**Contact Information**

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