

History

Landscape Architecture courses have been taught in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico for more than 25 years. In order to meet the demands for graduate landscape architects in the state, the School embarked on a process of developing a graduate Landscape Architecture degree program which would have the same status in the School as the Architecture and Planning programs.

On April 29, 1997, the faculty of the School of Architecture and Planning unanimously voted to add Landscape Architecture to the School's program offerings. All University and State approvals were finally complete in June, 2000, and the first class was admitted to the new program in the fall of 2000. The program was fully accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board in August, 2003, and again in August 2009.

The program owes much to John Brinkerhoff Jackson, one of the twentieth century's most prominent cultural historians. Mr. Jackson, who lived nearby in La Cienega, New Mexico, was enthralled with the New Mexican landscape and drew upon his experiences here throughout his teaching career at UNM, Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley. A prolific writer, J. B. wrote extensively about New Mexico landscapes and settlements and edited the journal, *Landscape*, thereby furthering the field of Landscape Architecture. Mr. Jackson chose to leave his legacy in the form of an endowment to the School of Architecture and Planning, and his legacy is being honored by building research, scholarship and teaching excellence in landscape architecture at the University of New Mexico.

Program

The Master of Landscape Architecture program is a fully accredited graduate professional degree that prepares graduates to enter the profession and discipline of landscape architecture. The MLA degree program accepts applications from students with previous degrees in non-design and design disciplines.

Students entering the program with non-design majors are required to complete a

minimum of 87 credit hours. This will normally require three-years of study.

Students entering the program with pre-professional or professional degrees in Landscape Architecture, Architecture or related environmental design disciplines are required to complete 48 - 54 credit hours with the total number of credit hours to be determined by the Program Director on a case-by-case basis.

The Post Professional Degree program is offered for applicants who hold a Bachelor degree in Landscape Architecture, who are licensed or who qualify for licensure and who have significant experience in the profession; or a degree in Architecture with a minimum of five years of professional experience. This program track and will require 30 - 32 credit hours of study. Please contact the program director for further information.

The Graduate program in Landscape Architecture at the University of New Mexico complements the Architecture and Community and Regional Planning programs within the School of Architecture and Planning. The strong interdisciplinary relationship among the three programs in addition to the School's close ties with professional, state, civic, neighborhood and cultural communities of the region ensures that students are given the opportunity to engage in a rich and diverse educational experience.

Several classes are offered in the evenings but students will not be able to complete the two or three year programs of study in evening hours. Many of the students work part-time, however, applicants should not expect to be able to hold a full-time job while in their program of study.

The program has strengths in the following areas:

- Design
- The urban environment
- Sustainable design
- Cultural landscape studies, in particular, the cultural and historic landscapes of the Southwest
- Landscape design history
- Environmental / land art

Courses

TYPICAL SEQUENCE FOR A 3 YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDY

Year 1

Fall

LA 501 Graduate Studio 1	6
LA 582 Graphic Communications	3
LA 561 History + Theory of Landscape Architecture	3
LA 556 Site + Environment	3

Spring

LA 502 Graduate Studio 2 (prerequisite: LA 501)	6
LA 560 Land Arch in the 20th + 21st Centuries	3
LA 558 Plants 1	3
LA 580 Landscape Architecture Technology	3

Year 2

Fall

LA 503 Graduate Studio 3 (prerequisite: LA 502)	6
LA 521 AutoCAD for Landscape Architects	3
LA 581 Landscape Construction Materials & Techniques	3
Elective	3

Spring

LA 508 DPAC Interdisciplinary Community Studio (prerequisite: LA 503)	6
LA 563 Theory in LA + Environmental Design	3
LA 586 Professional Skills in LA	3
Elective	3

Year 3

Fall

LA 505 Graduate Studio 5 (prerequisite: LA 508)	6
LA 531 Professional Practice in Landscape Arch	3
LA 596 LA Thesis/Project Preparation Seminar	3
Elective	3

Spring

LA 597 Master's Project (Studio T)	6
LA 559 Plants 2	3
Elective	3

2 YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDY

Students entering the Program with a *Bachelor of Landscape Architecture* degree (BLA) will complete a minimum of *48 credit hours of study*. The specific program of study will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but will typically include:

LA 503 LA Studio 3	6
LA 508 LA Studio 4	6
LA 505 LA Studio 5	6
LA 596 LA Thesis Prep Seminar	3
LA 511 Special Topics	6
Directed seminar electives	12
Free Electives	9

Students entering the Program with a *Bachelor of Architecture degree or a related environmental design degree* will normally complete a minimum of *57 credit hours of study*. The specific program of study will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but will typically include:

LA 503 LA Studio 3	6
LA 508 LA Studio 4	6
LA 505 LA Studio 5	6
LA 531 Professional Practice in LA	3
LA 556 Site + Environment	3
LA 558 Plants 1	3
LA 559 Plants 2	3
LA 561 History + Theory of Landscape Architecture	3
LA 563 Theory in LA & Environmental Design	3
LA 580 Landscape Architecture Technology	3
LA 581 Landscape Construction	
Materials & Techniques	3
LA 586 Professional Skills in LA	3
LA 596 LA Thesis Prep Seminar	3
LA 587 Studio T	6
Electives	3

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

The courses below offered in the School of Architecture and Planning are examples of suggested elective options. Students may also take applicable elective graduate courses in other schools and programs at UNM.

LA 512 Sustainable Landscape Design
LA 512 Cultural Landscape Evaluation & Management
LA 590 Historic Research Methods
LA 591 Preservation and Regionalism
LA 512 Landscape Architecture of Latin America
LA 566 Civic Spaces and Public Art
LA 567 Infrastructure Design & Planning
LA 562 Gardens in the Sand: New Mexico's Historic Landscapes
LA 512 GIS for Landscape Architecture
Arch 512 Memory and Architecture
Arch 571 Urban Design Theory
Arch 563 Modern Architecture
Arch 522 Contemporary Architecture
Arch 512 3D Modeling
Arch 581 Southwest Architecture and Cultural Landscapes
CRP 576 Human Settlements
CRP 527 Watershed Management

DESIGN STUDIOS

Design studios constitute the core of the Landscape Architecture program. Studios are a synthesis of critical thought and skill-building where students learn to transform ideas into design propositions, and to communicate these transformations both graphically and verbally. In the studio students have the opportunity to integrate and apply theoretical and technical knowledge in the curriculum to the physical design of environments. Each student discovers and develops strategies and methods that, over time, will evolve as an effective process for design.

Studio 1 is an introductory design studio for students entering the three-year program. Emphases are placed on basic design principles, design methods for three dimensional space, and the development of graphic communication skills.

Studio 2 is an investigation of vocabularies of landscape architectural design largely within

the context of the urban environment. Through an exploration of types, the landscape is understood as a cultural production. Students begin to generate an understanding of the deep structure of human places and find insights into our roles as designers of human environments.

Studio 3 examines the landscape as a complex adaptive system, exploring the process of 'interaction-based design' and a shift in thinking from predictable to stochastic processes. An urban region is used as the laboratory for exploring dynamic systems. Throughout the semester students work on one evolving, emerging and iterative project as they explore strategies for research, production and reflection. The studio is also a collaboration with the Art and Ecology program in the College of Fine Arts.

Studio 4 is an interdisciplinary studio focusing on urban design. The studio works with various communities in New Mexico, helping to bring a vision to the aspirations of those communities with respect to their physical environments. The process of service learning incorporates community participation and client interaction.

Studio 5 is the 'competition studio'. A national or international competition is selected and students develop proposals in response to the competition brief and in accordance with competition guidelines for submission. Students submit their projects for entry to the competition at the end of the semester.

A measure of success of our studio sequence is found in the many wins and honorable mentions achieved by our students in national and international competitions.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS and CONCENTRATIONS

The Certificate Program in Historic Preservation and Regionalism (HPR)

In addition to the Master of Landscape Architecture Degree, students may earn a certificate in Historic Preservation and Regionalism. This certificate program is transcribed and requires eighteen hours of coursework, nine of which may overlap with the Master of Landscape Architecture program of study.

The HPR Certificate program explores preservation issues and techniques in the context of tourism development, contemporary design and planning informed by regional traditions, cultural landscape planning, and historic landscape preservation.

Indigenous Design and Planning Concentration (iD+Pi)

This is a newly developed concentration that educates and informs Indigenous design and planning by engaging faculty, students, professionals and community leaders in culturally responsive practices. The interdisciplinary framework for the concentration is holistic and embodies the health and well-being of culturally sustainable design and planning.

MASTERS THESIS

The thesis/project is a comprehensive investigation of some aspect of the body of knowledge and theory that constitutes the discipline of landscape architecture. It offers students an opportunity to develop a detailed area of knowledge as they prepare to enter the profession. The areas of study and the types of research carried out by students vary considerably according to each student's interests.

LA 596, Thesis/Project Preparation, is offered in the Fall semester of year 3 and is designed to help students develop a thesis topic, carry out a literature review and background research, and design a study method for their thesis project. In the Spring semester of year 3 students enroll in **LA 597, Studio T**, the thesis studio, and carry out their research project in a structured studio environment.

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT THESIS/PROJECTS

Power Landscape and Meaning: Reclaiming the trans-industrial heterotopia of Madrid, New Mexico *Jess Dunn*

Margins on the Motorway: Registering mobility in the urban interstitial landscape
Victor Trujillo

Brownfield Site Reclamation *Ryan Anderson*

Exploring a Haptic Process for Fertile Design *Sue Frye*

Green Roofs in Dry Climates: A feasibility analysis for Albuquerque, New Mexico
Brooke Taralli

Plastic Yards: A case study of the perceptions, attitudes and values regarding artificial turf in the residential landscape *Keri McGuire*

The Refugee Landscape: Adaptive infrastructure for refugee camps *Kristen Kornienko*

Navigating Bigness: Redefining the corporate landscape *Brett Milligan*

Astronomy, Cosmology and Sacred Space in the Southwest *Pat Westbrook*

Exploring Vertical Gardens: Visions of a future paradigm *Shafee Jones Wilson*

Cultivating Ecoliteracy: Edible school garden design for Albuquerque *Amy Bell*

Waste Not: A sustainable clean-up strategy for old gas station sites *Natasha Needham*

Assistantships and awards

Tuition at the University of New Mexico is very reasonable. The Program is able to offer a limited number of graduate assistantships for non-resident students. These assistantships allow non-resident students to pay in-state tuition rates during their first year while they establish residency in New Mexico. The availability of other assistantships will depend on the type and amount of research and contract work being carried out in the Program at any given time. Normally students in second and third years are awarded research assistantships when these are available. Annual student awards for various categories of academic achievement are sponsored by the New Mexico ASLA chapter, local LA offices and other benefactors.

Admissions

The deadline for application for Fall admission is February 15, although applications will be considered until June 15 if there are spaces open. The deadline for application for the Spring semester is November 1. In addition to the UNM Office of Admissions application requirements, each student must also submit to the program:

- 1.** A letter of intent outlining the applicant's interest in the discipline of landscape architecture and the reasons for seeking admission to the program;
- 2.** Letters of reference from three individuals under whom the applicant has worked and/or studied. Two of the letters shall normally be from teachers or academic advisors who can comment on the applicant's undergraduate performance;
- 3.** A resume;
- 4.** A portfolio of creative work. All applicants to the two-year program must submit a portfolio. The portfolio should provide examples of creative thinking and creative approaches. Applicants are encouraged to think about the design and presentation of the portfolio document. Portfolios should not contain original work. Reproductions should be presented in 8.5 x 11 or

similar format that can be easily handled and stored. Those who wish to have their portfolio returned by mail should include return postage;

5. A copy of transcripts

Obtain further information, or send applications to:

Landscape Architecture Program

School of Architecture & Planning

Attn: Beth Rowe, Graduate Advisor

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Landscape Architecture Faculty

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Landscape Architecture Students

To come

Student Gallery

To come