MISSION & GOALS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT

Approved by Faculty vote on 12/10/13.

PROGRAM MISSION

Our landscape architecture department is an innovative team committed to collaborative learning and discovery. We prepare the next generation of designers and scholars, working through the medium of landscape, to reinvent relationships among people, land and technology. We are rooted in the American heartland and we embrace (and incorporate) diverse ideas, cultures and landscapes.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 (Design Excellence): Promote design excellence and innovation.

- Embrace and integrate state-of-the-art technology as a way to expand on traditional design and representation skills
- Provide challenging, project-based learning opportunities that cultivate innovation and advanced design solutions and typologies
- Reinforce and maintain traditional foundational skills and standards within a studio-based program

GOAL 2 (Design Excellence). Promote an understanding of and share our passion for living systems and their sustainability as a basis for the design of the built environment and the restoration of habitats.

- Maintain our tradition in plants/planting design
- Embrace and advance new planting and green technologies

GOAL 3 (Education) Produce competent and adaptable graduates with strong professional skills, who can compete in and assume future leadership in rapidly changing private and public markets.

- Stay current with/be at the forefront of technological changes in the profession
- Emphasize collaboration as a key professional skill.
- Emphasize interdisciplinary endeavors as a key part of the curriculum
- Create opportunities for “real world” engagement through design-build and service-learning projects.
GOAL 4 (Education): Produce well-rounded graduates who have a broad knowledge base, an understanding of the “Big Picture,” and critical thinking skills.

- Maintain liberal arts and science courses (“gen eds”) as an integral part of BLA Curriculum
- Maintain a broad-based LA curriculum that embraces the theoretical and conceptual as well as the practical and technical.
- Emphasize the importance of written and verbal communication skills as well as graphic communication skills.

GOAL 5 (Education): Maintain an educational environment that inculcates love of learning and life-long learning skills.

- Maintain a hands-on, rigorous and fun curriculum that emphasizes field and experiential learning activities and encourages intellectual curiosity
- Continue to use “real world” outreach and service learning projects to inspire students.
- Develop, maintain and improve relationships with alumni, professionals, professional societies to encourage students’ future involvement/connection.

GOAL 6 (Ethics, Adaptability) Produce graduates who are civically and ethically minded thinkers and who can respond to a rapidly changing world culture.

- Promote an understanding of the importance of diversity and multiple perspectives in the department and curriculum.
- Promote intercultural and international activities as important aspects of the curriculum and individual courses.
- Maintain an ethical and professional work and educational environment and uphold the ethics of the design professions.
- Utilize service-learning projects as a means of encouraging social/civic engagement in students’ future careers.

GOAL 7 (Community): Create a community of diverse students and faculty that connects with other peoples and communities.

- Recruit and retain diverse faculty committed to excellence in scholarship, teaching/mentoring, institutional/professional service
- Attract and retain a strong and diverse cohort of students from state, regional, national, and international contexts
- Create a sense of community and foster civility among students, faculty and staff
- Retain and expand our connections to international/global communities and peoples.
- Strive to collaborate and work well with other individuals and departments in the University and the college.
• Retain and strengthen existing and build new connections between our department and external groups such as alumni, practitioners, public agencies, private firms/industry, and other institutions.

GOAL 8 (Research/Creative Activity/Extension Activities) Continually advance the quality, relevance, and application of research and creative endeavors as a means for creating positive change in Iowa and around the world.

• Integrate teaching with research and creative activities to benefit both faculty scholarship and student education
• Create partnerships with public and private sectors to support/fund research endeavors benefiting both industry and society

GOAL 9 (External Relationships) Make more people aware of the perspectives and practice of landscape architecture, including non-major students and off-site learners

• Promote the strengths of landscape architecture within the college
• Increase enrollment of non-major students in LA courses
• Continue extension, outreach, and service learning activities as a means to educate Iowa communities and individuals about landscape architecture