

BLA and MLA Program Outcomes for Professional Competency

Approved by faculty vote December 17, 2013.

After graduating from the professional BLA or MLA programs, students will be able to.....

DESIGN

- Understand and practice design as an iterative process.
- Conceive and develop a design concept/parti.
- Design sites and landscapes and develop programs of use across a range of scales and complexities, from small to large and from local to regional.
- Design and understand landscapes in relationship to architecture at a variety of scales, from individual buildings to urban scale architectural massing.
- Design landscapes as systems in the context of existing and proposed ecological, economic, social, legal, and cultural systems.
- Inventory and analyze sites, and apply this information to design.
- Design landscapes as part of the built, material world, from concept to detail.
- Use information from public participation/community involvement to design landscapes.
- Integrate design skills listed above to design a complete project, from inventory/analysis through conceptual design to design detail.

RESEARCH and SCHOLARSHIP

- Find, use, and cite data and information from a wide variety of sources.
- Recognize research as a part of landscape architecture and design.
- Understand, evaluate and know when to apply a range of investigative methods (MLA).
- Create new understanding through research (MLA).

GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION/COMMUNICATION

- Utilize (draw and record) a sketchbook as a daily design tool for note-taking, observation, fieldwork, idea generation, and freehand drawing.
- Comprehend and employ a wide range of manual and digital, 2-D, 3-D, and 4-D drawing and modeling and visualization techniques.

- Understand and use orthographic projections. Represent complex information, and design analysis using graphics and text.
- Select appropriate communication and representation techniques based on the design problem.

WRITTEN and ORAL COMMUNICATION

- Construct and defend a verbal argument by introducing an idea, supporting with evidence and drawing conclusions.
- Publicly present a project clearly and concisely to a client, community, or user group.
- Produce professional communications such as technical reports, specifications, correspondence, resumes, cover letters, portfolios, etc.
- Practice academic writing conventions (such as abstracting) and produce a professional-level publication such as a conference paper, article for a professional journal or magazine, or academic paper (MLA).

LANDSCAPE TECHNOLOGY & IMPLEMENTATION

- Design and experience grading, earthwork, and built structures at multiple scales.
- Design stormwater management systems informed by sustainable ecological and engineering principles.
- Develop schematic/conceptual ideas that address site design standards, zoning, and other legal requirements.
- Produce basic construction documents and other project documentation, including plans and specifications.

Understand a wide range of digital applications and programming, including scripting, geospatial data handling, parametrics, and logic, as design and construction tools.

ECOLOGY and PLANTS

- Observe, describe and assess geological, hydrological, and ecological systems.
- Understand and apply principles of ecology and sustainability to design at a variety of scales.
- Identify and inventory plant and plant community dynamics of the Midwest region as a model for understanding plant dynamics in other regions.
- Incorporate knowledge of plants (their forms, soil and climate requirements, ecologies and communities, and cultural meanings) into design proposals.

THEORY/HISTORY/CULTURE

- Understand and practice landscape architecture as a continuously changing historical and cultural activity.
- Critique contemporary design practice.
- Identify and interpret key historical periods, trends, theories and place/design typologies (public, private, urban, rural, formal, etc.).
- Understand and apply theoretical methods such as hypothesis, ways of knowing and making.
- Incorporate community design/participatory design theory as part of landscape architectural practice.

SOCIAL /BEHAVIORAL/HUMAN DYNAMICS

- Apply human constructs relating to space and environment (e.g., “nature”)
- Interpret how social, cultural, and political dynamics affect the use and design of public and private space.
- Investigate how physical design and design process can effect social and cultural change.
- Understand and accept varying cultural beliefs, values, and perceptions.
- Understand how personal beliefs, values, and perceptions relate to others’ beliefs, values, and perceptions in professional settings.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Function effectively in collaborative and multidisciplinary settings.
- Understand the traditional and nontraditional professional settings in which landscape architects practice.
- Practice professional ethics, judgment and skills and understand the professional’s role as a fiduciary.
- Understand the role of licensure and the licensing exam in the profession.