

Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA), Iowa State University

Public Information Policy

Programs accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) are required to provide reliable information to the public. Programs must report on accreditation status and their performance. This information is to help potential students make informed application decisions.

Accreditation

The three-year professional Master of Landscape Architecture program at Iowa State University received its initial accreditation by the LAAB in 2014. It is scheduled for reaccreditation in 2020. Applications are accepted from students with or without a professional undergraduate degree in landscape architecture.

For more information on LAAB, see asla.org/accreditationlaab.aspx.

Program Mission

Offered by the ISU Department of Landscape Architecture, the MLA program prepares designers and scholars to be leaders in the rapidly changing field of landscape architecture. Our graduate students take on multidisciplinary environmental-cultural challenges and create innovative designs that sustain healthy and resilient communities and landscapes.

Program Purpose

The purpose of the graduate program is three-fold:

1. Provide students intensive educational design studio experiences and project-based learning opportunities that build upon their previous bachelor degree, bringing new insights, opportunities and diversity into the profession.
2. Offer students both basic and advanced skills and knowledge through core and specialized lecture courses in one of three focus areas of landscape architecture – Theory/History, Advocacy/Planning and Technology/Ecology – of their own choosing.
3. Foster ethical, competent, adaptable and well-rounded graduates through professional development and skill courses that empower them to become leaders in private and public practice.

Educational Goals

Goal 1: Generative Knowledge. Provide students sustaining educational foundation through both disciplinary and interdisciplinary studio and coursework.

Goal 2: Research and Innovation. Equip students with the critical thinking skills necessary to conduct independent and meaningful research and to produce original scholarship, design and/or technical solutions.

Goal 3: Professionalism and Impact. Impart students with ethics and professionalism that enable them to improve the physical environment and quality of life for current and future generations.

Student Graduation Rates

The MLA program awarded the following number of degrees over the past five years:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
MLA	3	3	2	4	8	5

Retention and Cumulative Graduate Rates

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total <u>Enrolled</u> MLA Students	12	17	17	24	22
% Returned 2nd Year	75.0	88.2	100.0	95.8	68.1
% Graduated in 2 Years	16.6	0.0	6.6	4.2	0.0
% Returned 3rd Year	58.3	88.2	94.1	50.0	22.7
% Graduated in 3 Years	33.3	64.7	82.3	41.6	13.6
% Returned 4th Year	25.0	23.5	11.7	8.3	9.0
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total <u>Incoming</u> MLA Students	6	11	4	11	7
% Returned 2nd Year	66.6	81.8	100.0	90.9	
% Graduated in 2 Years	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	
% Returned 3rd Year	66.6	81.8	75.0		
% Graduated in 3 Years	66.6	63.6	75.0		
% Returned 4th Year	0.0	18.1			

Estimated Costs for the 2017-2018 Academic Year

Category	Iowa Resident	Non-Resident
Tuition**	\$10,486	\$27,710
Books/Supplies	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total	\$12,486	\$29,710

**Tuition includes registration fee, university activity fee, health fee and technology fee

Links to Helpful Prospective Student Information

MLA program website: <http://www.design.iastate.edu/landscape-architecture/degrees/master-of-landscape-architecture/>

Admission Information: <https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/academics/programs/apresults.php?id=74>

Financial Aid and Scholarships: <https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/finance/>

Landscape Architecture Faculty: <http://www.design.iastate.edu/landscape-architecture/dept-directory/>

Landscape Architecture Home Page: <http://www.design.iastate.edu/landscape-architecture/>

MLA website (Wordpress): <https://mladesign.wordpress.com/>

(ab)Terris (graduate student organization) Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/abTerris.M.LandscapeARCHatISU/>

Career Placement: [https://www.grad-](https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/academics/programs/career_placement.php?id=74)

[college.iastate.edu/academics/programs/career_placement.php?id=74](https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/academics/programs/career_placement.php?id=74)

Student Awards and Recognition

Year 2016-2017

- MLA student team consisting of Carol Joella Ustine, Austin Dunn, Mengtian Huang and Ngoc Ho won an *ASLA Central States Award* for their studio project, "Bird Friendly Iowa," led by Professor Julia Badenhope, in April 2017.
- Two MLA students, Qin Yun and Xiao Cui, won an *ASLA Central States Award* for their Philadelphia schoolyard studio project, led by Assistant Professor Bambi Yost, in April 2017.
- MLA student Zhongzhe Shen co-authored and presented a paper with Assistant Professor Caroline Westort at *Digital Landscape Architecture Conference* in Bernberg, Germany, in June 2017.
- MLA student Taylor Danger co-authored a research paper with Prof. Yost. It was accepted to the *International Play Association Conference* in Calgary, Canada, in September 2017.
- MLA student Nuo Man presented her class project, *Art & Science of Vegetated Floating Islands*, conducted jointly by faculty in Landscape Architecture and Art and Visual Culture, with Associate Professor Mimi Wagner and Assistant Professor Austin Stewart, at *Central States ASLA Conference*, in April 2017.
- MLA student Nuo Man also was nominated as the department's Olmsted Scholar in 2017.

Year 2015-2016

- MLA student Miao Fangzhou was nominated as the department's Olmsted Scholar in 2016.