The Profession

Landscape architects are responsible for sensitively arranging and relating the various elements of built and natural environments. This requires an extensive knowledge of design theory, technical competence, and a commitment to the stewardship and conservation of natural, constructed, and human resources. Current practice includes managing and understanding information, facilitating decision making, and assuming leadership in advocating conservation, environmental sustainability, and resource management. The professional concerns of today’s landscape architects include some of the most pressing social and environmental challenges of our time.

The profession has long held a commitment to the quality-of-life now recognized as being so crucial to our survival. It embraces, as a major ethical value, the understanding and recognition that these issues are global in scope and apply to all of nature’s forms. The effective application of this ethical value to the process of land design and management requires landscape architects to interface with colleagues in the fields of architecture, engineering, traffic management, interior design, and the behavioral and environmental sciences; to skillfully manage politics which influence and impact projects; and to facilitate community participation.

Abundant and constantly expanding career opportunities exist for landscape architects as public servants, private practitioners, policy makers, and educators. Public demand for better housing, open space and parks, schools, commercial and leisure facilities, stormwater and environmental issues continues to heighten the need for landscape architects. As Paul Hawken said so eloquently: “You are brilliant and the earth is hiring.” Certainly if you are looking to change the world, landscape architecture is the only design profession with an environmental stewardship mandate.
At UCLA Extension

The Landscape Architecture Program at UCLA Extension requires an academically rigorous level of commitment and participation. It encourages traditional academic values and methodologies, and at the same time, encourages students to value the search for fresh solutions to contemporary problems.

Our location within the city of Los Angeles provides unique opportunities to observe and participate firsthand in the critical processes of Landscape Architecture. Los Angeles is a dynamic example of community or an assemblage of communities impacted by nature and impacting nature. Burgeoning growth, wealth, poverty, housing and urban infill, and transportation issues challenge the carrying capacity of this ever-expanding megalopolis. The range of social, cultural, geographical, and environmental issues in this diverse region stimulate and challenge students and professionals active in the overall spectrum of design from avant-garde to historical preservation, and from single family residential to whole new communities, providing a rich study palette for students in this program.

With a majority of our instructors involved professionally in these design efforts, students frequently participate in real projects and apply theories advanced in studio classes. The program challenges students to seek effective ways to address problems through development of design process and application of current technology. We are dedicated to developing students with a professional attitude embracing both constraints and opportunities and their combined challenges.

The program attracts students with a broad range of educational and professional backgrounds. Many students possess advanced degrees and extensive professional experience. While most are career changers, others have been active in related design fields or the landscape industry and seek a new area of professionalism. This diversity provides unique opportunities to students and instructors alike for exposure to alternative perspectives and collaboration of expertise.

The Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects at UCLA Extension (SCASLA), active since 1977, functions as liaison between the student body and the program administration and sponsors lectures, workshops, and social events. Each year SCASLA mounts an extensive exhibit of current student work, inviting the public and the profession. In 1988, SCASLA was chartered as a student chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), becoming the first student organization at a non-degree granting institution in the country.

The program is part of the UCLA Career Center which assists graduates with job placement. Consistent with state licensing requirements, the program does not recommend students to private individuals for design services.

The program graduated its first students in 1979; to date, more than 350 candidates have been awarded the Professional Certificate and over twenty-five percent have become licensed landscape architects.

The Landscape Architecture program is a certificate program approved by the Landscape Architects Technical Committee, California Board of Architects, Department of Consumer Affairs, as providing partial or all of the educational requirements for professional licensure within California. It provides a unique alternative to traditional professional degree programs offering classes exclusively during evening and weekend hours, enabling students to pursue landscape architecture while continuing their current professional positions.
Philosophy & Curriculum

The education of a landscape architect begins with developing the ability to see and record visual images and understand spaces and natural systems. The issues which emerge when setting out to combine the natural and built environments require both theoretical knowledge and technical skill to be able, to first recognize and understand geography, culture, space, and context, and then to produce responsive and creative designs using a logical and comprehensive design process. It is imperative that the educational environment foster sensitivity to an ethic which engenders responsibility for the land, concern for human factors in the environment, and an overall commitment to significant aesthetic value.

The curriculum is structured as a sequence of design, technical, and breadth courses. The goal of the program is to integrate these three areas into a single body of knowledge so that each segment is understood in the context of its relevance to the others. Electives cover special interest areas and are inserted into the sequence of classes at the convenience of the student to fulfill the total required units.

The first core sequence develops basic drawing, design, and graphic skills, placing a strong emphasis on design theory. After a formal portfolio review of 1st year course work the student embarks on the next series of landscape design studios which introduce increasingly complex issues and methodologies. A parallel series of breadth and technical courses builds essential knowledge, sensitivity, and skill, addressing the impact of social, historical, and natural phenomena on the design process while providing training in practical skills and techniques. A second portfolio review assesses the progress and competency of the student to move forward with a capstone project.

When all required and elective courses have been passed with a letter grade of “C+” or better, with a grade point average of at least 3.0, the student is awarded the Professional Certificate.

Design Studios

- Design Theory
- Applied Theory
- Environmental Analysis & Planning
- Concept Development
- Advanced Design Studios
- Planting Design

This sequence develops as a structured series. Individual courses address specific theories, methodologies, and philosophies within the overall context of accepted design theory. All scales of design—from large scale environmental planning to site-specific studies and urban design—are covered.

The historical evolution of design through the ages is examined in terms of contemporary problems. Emerging theories and processes are examined in the context of developments in allied professions, such as architecture and art. As students advance through the sequence, they build upon, recall, and apply the collective knowledge of previous design and academic coursework.

Technical

- Basic Drawing
- Graphic Communication
- Drafting
- AutoCAD
- Irrigation Practices
- Construction Drawing
- Construction Methods and Materials
- Plant Materials
- Grading and Drainage
- Advanced Graphics

Concurrent with the design sequence, students complete a series of technical courses which develop the graphic and technical ability to create buildable design solutions with professional competence.

Upon completion of the construction series, students are expected to exhibit and possess the knowledge and ability to prepare presentation drawings as well as grading, drainage, planting, irrigation, and construction drawings and should have developed an understanding of the interrelationships among the many and diverse facets of the profession.
Breadth

• Introduction to the Profession
• History
• Professional Practices
• Human Factors
• Communication
• Natural & Human Systems

The program places great value on students grasping the scope and extent of the profession, understanding historical precedents, and developing a sensitive and comprehensive appreciation for the natural systems which affect and inform their work. Behavioral characteristics of space, user needs, history, literature, communication techniques, and ethical values are integral to a well-rounded professional education.

Courses addressing other significant areas of the profession such as advanced computer applications, lighting, horticultural practices and other physical and natural science courses are offered throughout the year.

Facilities

Classes are held on the UCLA campus, in the UCLA Extension dedicated studios in Westwood Village, and in downtown Los Angeles at the Figueroa Center. Occasionally classes are also held at other locations and sites. Plant Materials classes are organized as field trips, meeting in nurseries, gardens, arboreta, and other designed sites in Southern California. Students also enjoy access to ancillary campus services and resources such as museums, bookstores, restaurants, exhibits, numerous libraries, and special collections.

The UCLA Extension 1010 Westwood Center provides a vibrant learning environment at a large facility housing classrooms, studios, labs, counseling offices, and shared critique and gallery spaces. The facility houses a specialized library of basic texts and references.

Open House

Anyone interested in pursuing the curriculum or needing more information about the field of landscape architecture is encouraged to attend one of the free open houses/introductory classes before enrolling in the program, or call the office for additional information on the program and the certificate.

Advising

The Program Manager provides scheduled advising to enrolled Certificate candidates.

The program staff tracks the progress of each Certificate candidate, monitoring grades and curriculum sequencing, processing transfer credits and challenges, and offers advice for more specialized assistance. Advising appointment times are announced quarterly to Certificate students or can be made by calling the program office.

Continuing Education for Professionals

Landscape architects and professionals in related fields are encouraged to enroll in advanced core courses as well as special classes covering particular skills or areas of individual interests. Recent offerings included licensing exam reviews, LARE Preparation, “Stormwater 101,” “Residential Lighting,” and “Green Roofs” among others.
General Information

UCLA Extension policies and procedures regarding enrollment, refunds, parking, records, etc. are published in the quarterly Extension catalogs and are available online. In addition, the following requirements apply specifically to landscape architecture students.

Admission & Candidacy

Formal admission to candidacy in the program is required to enroll in landscape architecture courses past the second quarter, to participate in the structured portfolio reviews, to access advising sessions, and to receive the Professional Certificate in Landscape Architecture. A bachelor’s degree in any field from an approved institution, a completed Application for Candidacy form (available online and in the program Office), and payment of a candidacy fee are required for admission. The Candidacy fee is valid for 4 years.

Once admitted, candidates are entitled to the program yearly advising service, advance notice of quarterly course offerings and library privileges. Membership in the Student Chapter of ASLA (SCASLA) is automatic for all students.

Transfers

Students may petition to transfer up to 16 units of core requirements of equivalent academic coursework. Decisions on transfers are final and more detailed information is available in the Student Handbook.

International students should contact the International Student Office at (310) 825-9351 for information about the many regulations governing their participation in U.S. educational institutions.

Conditional admissions for students not meeting the requirements above are considered on an individual basis, please contact the office for further information.

Fees & Expenses

Enrollment fees attached to each course and published in the quarterly Extension catalog are due before the beginning of the second class unless otherwise noted in the catalog. In addition to the one-time non-refundable and non-transferable candidacy fee, students can expect to incur expenses for books, equipment and materials, printing, library cards, parking, and a laptop computer. All Extension policies are available online and at the back of the quarterly catalog.

For more information about our completion rates, the median debt of students who have completed the program, and other important information, please visit our certificate website at uclaextension.edu/CF004.

Financial Assistance

The program provides opportunities for students to work in the program’s library and as teaching assistants. These openings and qualifications are advertised on the program blog.

A number of local, regional, national, and international scholarships are available annually to landscape architecture students. The program disseminates application information to the student body, as it is published. Most scholarships require a minimum 3.5 grade point average, community service and student involvement.

Competitions offered in the past include:
• Joseph H. Linesch Memorial Scholarship
• Peridian International, Inc./Rae L. Price, FASLA Scholarship
• EDAW Summer Student Work/Study program
• CLASS Fund/LAF Scholarships and Internships
• CLASS Fund/LAF Design Competition
• SCC/ASLA Design Competition
• TORO Scholarships
• Rainbird Scholarship
• ASLA National Student Design Competition
• National Association of Women in Construction
• Association for Women in Architecture + Design
• Malibu Garden Club Scholarship

There are several Extension-wide financial aid programs and scholarships available to assist students with their education.

For complete information and guidance, call the Financial Aid Office at (310) 825-9601, or email finaid@uclaextension.edu.
For More Information

The Landscape Architecture Program office is located in the UCLA Extension Administration Building (corner of Gayley and Le Conte Avenue in Westwood) and is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm.

Landscape Architecture Program
UCLA Extension
10995 Le Conte Avenue, Room 414
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Phone: (310) 825-9414
Fax: (310) 206-7382
Email: landscapearchitecture@uclaextension.edu
Visit our website at: landarch.uclaextension.edu

UCLA
Gene Block, Chancellor

UCLA Extension
Wayne Smutz, Dean

Department of the Arts
Linda Venis, Director

Landscape Architecture Program
Stephanie Landregan, FASLA, Program Director
Amanda Wesley, Program Manager