

Landscape Architecture

If you've ever admired a well-designed and beautiful park, playground, garden, college or high school campus, country club, shopping center, zoo, or even skate park, then you've seen the work of a landscape architect firsthand. Landscape architects analyze, plan, design, and manage outdoor spaces. They use computer-aided design software, computer mapping systems, and other tools to design outdoor spaces that not only serve practical needs, but also protect the environment. You will need a bachelor's or master's degree in landscape architecture to work in this field. Employment prospects for landscape architects are excellent. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that the career of landscape architect will grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2016. Approximately 28,000 landscape architects are employed in the United States.

166

Typical Courses:

- > Landscape Design Methods
- > Plans and Design
- > Landscape Graphics
- > Regional Landscape History
- > Landscape Construction
- > The Urban Landscape
- > World Gardens
- > Landscape Architectural Practice
- > Drawing the Landscape

Potential Employers:

- > Consulting firms
- > Public agencies
- > Landscape construction and nursery companies
- > Government agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management
- > Self-employment

Available At:

Approximately 65 colleges and universities offer undergraduate and/or graduate programs that are accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board. A portion are listed below. Visit www.asla.org for a complete list of programs.

Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ)

480/965-3536

<http://design.asu.edu/sala/index.shtml>

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree

California State Polytechnic University (Pomona, CA)

909/869-2673

www.csupomona.edu/~la

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree, master's degree

Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO)

www.colostate.edu/Depts/LArch

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree

University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT)

www.canr.uconn.edu/plsci/la/index.html

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree

University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)

352/392-6098 (ext. 321, undergraduate), (ext. 326, graduate)

www.dcp.ufl.edu/landscape

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree, master's degree

University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

706/542-1816

www.sed.uga.edu

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree, master's degree

University of Idaho (Moscow, ID)

www.caa.uidaho.edu/larch

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree, master's degree

University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana

217/333-0176

LADept@uiuc.edu

www.landarch.uiuc.edu

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree, master's degree, doctorate

University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY)

859/257-7295

www.uky.edu/Agriculture/LA

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree

Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, LA)

225/578-1434

www.design.lsu.edu

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree, master's degree

University of Maryland (College Park, MD)

301/405-4359

www.larch.umd.edu

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree

North Dakota State University (Fargo, ND)

www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/landarch

Degrees available: Bachelor's degree

They Teach That in College

University of Oregon (Eugene, OR)
541/346-3634
<http://landarch.uoregon.edu>
Degrees available: Bachelor's degree, master's degree

Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN)
765/494-4600
www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/landarch/landarch.shtml
Degrees available: Bachelor's degree

Texas A&M University (College Station, TX)
979/845-1046
<http://archone.tamu.edu/LAUP>
Degrees available: Bachelor's degree, master's degree

For More Information:

American Society of Landscape Architects
www.asla.org

LProfession.org
www.lprofession.org

168

Interview: Gary B. Kesler and James Wescoat Jr.

Gary Kesler and James Wescoat, faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, discussed their program and the education of landscape architecture students with the editors of *They Teach That in College!*

Q. Tell us about your program.

A. The Department of Landscape Architecture offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. The undergraduate program leads to a professionally accredited bachelor of landscape architecture, which enables students to work with professional landscape architecture design firms, design-build firms, multidisciplinary planning firms, public park districts, and related environmental fields. The professional B.L.A. and M.L.A. degrees also meet the educational requirement for taking the Landscape Architectural Registration Examination offered in all but a few states. The Department trains students broadly in the fields of environmental design and planning. We also have specializations in 1) Ecological Landscape Design; 2) Community-Based Urban Landscape Design; and 3) Cultural Heritage Landscape Design. In 2006, the Department initiated a new specialization, The

Landscape Architecture

Business of Landscape Architecture, which helps students who envision business leadership as well as professional practice.

-
- Q.** What makes your program an appealing option for students interested in the field?
- A.** Students are drawn to landscape architecture for its combination of artistic creativity, intellectual stimulation, and professional opportunities to harmonize environmental and human well-being. Students can look forward to making a physical difference in the places where people live, work, and recreate. In addition, our “design studio” method of teaching ensures strong bonding among students and close student-faculty relationships—all set within the large context of a large research university. It combines the best aspects of the small college and large university.
-
- Q.** What type of internship opportunities are provided by your program?
- A.** Historically, we have helped arrange summer internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students with landscape architecture firms, design-build firms, and public agencies. This year, we are organizing a new program of full-year internships to increase student professional experience; and in the near future, it is our goal for all students to participate in a full-year internship (or combination internship-study abroad year). In addition to internships, the Department has many scholarships, including prestigious international and domestic traveling fellowships.
-
- Q.** What high school subjects/activities should students focus on to be successful in this major?
- A.** Students come to landscape architecture with a wide range of environmental, technical, and artistic interests. It is helpful if they have some prior computer-aided design, freehand drawing, graphic design, and/or general art classes. But most important is their passion to help to make the world a better place for human and natural communities, which may be expressed in community service projects, environmental projects, gardening, and a host of other activities.
-
- Q.** How will the field change in the future?
- A.** Landscape architecture ranges from small-scale residential garden design to urban design and large-scale river basin

They Teach That in College



Third-year BLA student Sam Zimbovsky, a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, receives comments from Department Head James Wescoat on his final design project. (Photo courtesy of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

170

planning. In the future, landscape architects will increasingly be involved in “sustainable ecological design” and “green building” to conserve scarce resources and protect and restore natural ecosystems. Landscape architects will work on increasingly complex community design and cultural heritage projects. And they will do so in an increasingly dynamic context of globalization and global environmental change.

-
- Q.** What is the employment outlook for landscape architects?
- A.** The future is very bright for new landscape architects. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts landscape architecture to experience faster than average growth (18-26 percent) for all occupations through 2014. There are more jobs than students, both within the Midwest and nationwide; and entry-level salaries are increasing. In large measure, these trends reflect landscape architects ability to work on pressing problems, to draw upon different branches of knowledge to help solve those problems, and to envision hopeful futures for the next generation.