

# Master of Landscape Architecture

The graduate program in landscape architecture leads to a professional Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree. Two- and three-year degree options accommodate students with design and other undergraduate degrees. The landscape program further develops cross-disciplinary connections among architecture, urban design and visual arts in the Sam Fox School.

The program in landscape architecture focuses on the three subjects of design, ecology, and urbanism. The transformative process of design — linking cultural, historical, and technological investigations — forms the pedagogical basis for research. Ecology informs design practice to address a multiplicity of scales and natural systems within the environment. Urbanism serves as a terrain of contemporary landscape practice. As heirs to design, ecological, and urban traditions, landscape architects are uniquely suited to articulate a spatial vision for today's environment. This three-pronged approach is geared to develop the students' critical and conceptual abilities and to prepare them to become leaders within professional and academic spheres.

The curriculum is centered on studio teaching supported by instruction in technology, history, and theory. Following the core sequence of design studios and classes, students are encouraged to develop their own research interests through advanced design studios and electives. Interdisciplinary and international option studios foster a multiplicity of perspectives leading to a research-based degree project (thesis or independent study). In addition, students have opportunities to further their investigations within and beyond the school through teaching and research assistantships and scholarships.

The landscape architecture program draws on a unique set of institutional, regional, and international resources available at the Sam Fox School. St. Louis functions as a laboratory for understanding and testing ecological and urban theories at the local scale, from brownfield reclamation to urban agriculture systems. Washington University's outstanding programs in Environmental Studies, Environmental Engineering, and American Culture Studies expand curricular offerings in ecology, technology, and landscape studies, and the internationally renowned Missouri Botanical Garden serves as an exceptional tool of research and teaching. Finally, through the extensive international offerings of the school, students experience different landscapes, cultures, and cultures of practice.

Website: <https://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/academics/college-of-architecture/master-of-landscape-architecture>

## Faculty Chair

**Derek Hoeflerlin**  
MArch, Yale University

For a list of faculty members, please refer to the Architecture faculty page.

## Degree Requirements

### Master of Landscape Architecture Degree — MLA 3

The following is the curriculum sequence for the three-year MLA program:

- Pre-Semester Course: Landscape Architecture/Architecture Orientation + Workshop

Semester	Units
<b>First Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio I	6
Landscape Representation	3
Shared Ecologies and Design	3
Plants and Environment	1.5
Grading and Landform	1.5
<b>Second Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio II	6
Landscape Representation II	3
Landscape Ecology	3
GIS for Site Design	1.5
Planting Design	1.5
<b>Third Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio III	6
Visualizing Ecological Processes	3
Landscape History and Theory	3
Landscape Technology	3
<b>Fourth Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio IV	6
Modern and Contemporary History	3
Ecological Elective	3
Elective*	3
<b>Fifth Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio V	6
Research in the Landscape	3
Ecological Elective	3
Elective*	3
<b>Sixth Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio VI	6
Professional Practice	3
Electives*	6
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>90</b>

\* The elective sequence changes from year to year, depending on offerings from the MLA, MArch, and MUD programs. The program office determines which courses fulfill this requirement. Students are required to complete a minimum of two ecological systems electives.

## Master of Landscape Architecture Degree — MLA 2

The following is the curriculum sequence for the two-year MLA program; placement is determined by the Admission Committee.

- Pre-Semester Course: Landscape Architecture/Architecture Orientation + Workshop

Semester	Units
<b>First Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio III	6
Visualizing Ecological Processes	3
Shared Ecologies and Design	3
Plants and Environment	1.5
Grading and Landform	1.5
<b>Second Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio IV	6
Modern and Contemporary History	3
Landscape Ecology	3
GIS for Site Design	1.5
Planting Design	1.5
<b>Third Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio V	6
Research in the Landscape	3
Landscape Technology	3
Ecological Elective	3
<b>Fourth Semester</b>	
Landscape Architecture Studio VI	6
Professional Practice	3
Ecological Elective	3
Electives*	3
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>60</b>

\* The elective sequence changes from year to year, depending on offerings from the MLA, MArch, and MUD programs. The program office determines which courses fulfill this requirement. Students are required to complete a minimum of two ecological systems electives.

## Studio Grade Requirement

### Master of Landscape Architecture Studio Grade Requirement

Students must achieve a minimum average of B- in the core sequence in order to enter the 600-level studio sequence. Students who do not fulfill this requirement may be permitted to repeat the 501 or 502 studio. If a student still fails to meet the B- average after taking an additional 500-level studio, they will be dismissed from the Master of Landscape Architecture program.

The option to repeat a studio is contingent on a student having met the requirements of Academic Probation. A suspension or dismissal resulting from the Academic Probation policy takes precedence over this Studio Grade Requirement policy.

## Courses

For a list of available courses, please refer to the Courses section of the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design in this *Bulletin*.