

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (BLA)

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

Landscape Architecture is a profession focused on the design, planning, and protection of natural and built environments. The five-year program in landscape architecture is accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board and recognized by the Landscape Architects Technical Committee under the purview of the California Architects Board and is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security STEM designated degree in landscape architecture under the umbrella of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

The program emphasizes a process-oriented approach to design and planning while developing an awareness and sensitivity to community and human values as they relate to environmental conditions. Students majoring in landscape architecture acquire technical competencies and creative design skills through a range of projects which represent the profession's breadth.

Graduates of the program are prepared for positions in private practice, consulting, governmental agencies at the national, state or local levels, industry and construction firms. Graduate study is encouraged for those students interested in pursuing advanced studies or academic positions.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Integrate natural and cultural systems in projects at multiple scales.
2. Incorporate sustainable practices throughout the design, planning and implementation process.
3. Comprehend and demonstrate the relationships among analysis, concept development, design development, and implementation.
4. Apply critical thinking and analytical problem solving throughout planning, design and implementation.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of theory, history and contemporary practices of landscape architecture.
6. Apply professional communication skills including written, oral, graphic and digital formats.
7. Identify the role of landscape architects in professional interdisciplinary settings.
8. Apply technical skills in site engineering, material explorations and detailing, construction documents, plant materials, and planting design.
9. Apply professional standards, ethics and practices in the field of landscape architecture.
10. Integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion into landscape architecture related projects.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum

In addition to the program requirements listed on this page, students must also satisfy requirements outlined in more detail in the Minimum Requirements for Graduation (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/>) section of this catalog, including:

- 40 units of upper-division courses
- 2.0 GPA
- Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR)
- U.S. Cultural Pluralism (USCP)

Note: No Major or Support courses may be selected as credit/no credit. In addition, no more than 12 units of cooperative or internship courses can count towards your degree requirements.

Code	Title	Units
MAJOR COURSES		
LA 1104	History of Landscape Architecture (3A) ¹	3
LA 1110	Landscape Representation I	3
LA 1112	Landscape Representation II	4
LA 1120	Studio I - Beginning Design	3
LA 2203	Landscape Ecology: Concepts, Issues, and Interrelationships	3
LA 2210	Materials and Techniques of Landscape Construction	4
LA 2212	Introduction to Planting Design	3
LA 2214	Site Engineering Techniques and Applications	4
LA 2220	Studio II - Site Based Design	3
LA 2222	Studio III - Design for Implementation	3
LA 3303	Theory for Landscape Architects	3
LA 3304	Contemporary Issues in Cultural Landscapes	3
LA 3306	Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture	3
LA 3310	Landscape Representation III	3

LA 3312	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications for Design Projects	3
LA 3320	Studio IV - Landscape Performance and Design	4
LA 3322	Studio V - Environmental Planning and Design	4
LA 4371	Landscape Architecture Internship	4
LA 4410	Sustainability, Resilience, and Climate Ecology in Design	3
LA 4413	Social Equity and Design	3
LA 4420	Studio VI - Community and Social Design	4
LA 4422	Interdisciplinary Design Studio	4
or LA 4424	Contemporary Issues in Landscape Architecture Design Studio	
LA 4461	Senior Project Design Studio I	4
LA 4462	Senior Project Design Studio II	4
Professional Topics/Electives		
Select from the following: 3		
LA 4414	Advanced Landscape Construction	
LA 4415	Advanced Landscape Representation	
LA 4416	Advanced Planting Design	
LA 4417	Social and Behavioral Factors for Landscape Architecture	
LA 4418	Contemporary Issues in Landscape Architecture	
SUPPORT COURSES		
Select from the following: (5B & 5C) ¹ 4		
BIO 1114	Plant Diversity and Ecology	
BOT 1121	General Botany	
Select from the following: (1C) ¹ 3		
COMS 1101	Public Speaking	
COMS 1102	Public Speaking in Digital Spaces	
Select from the following: (1B) ¹ 3		
COMS 1126	Argument and Advocacy	
COMS 1145	Reasoning, Argumentation, and Writing	
ENGL 1145	Writing Arguments	
ENGL 1146	Writing Arguments Across Cultures	
ENGL 1147	Writing Arguments about STEM	
ES 1145	Writing, Reasoning, and Argumentation	
PHIL 1126	Logic and Argumentative Writing	
WGQS 1145	Reasoning, Argumentation, and Writing on Gender and Sexuality	
EDES 1123	Place, People, and the Built Environment (4B) ¹	3
Select from the following: (1A) ¹ 3		
ENGL 1133	Multilingual Writing and Rhetoric	
ENGL 1134	Writing and Rhetoric	
MATH 1007	Precalculus (2) ¹	3
PLSC 2234	Introduction to Plant Materials	3
Designated Electives		
Select from the following: 3-4		
ARCH 1121	Equity, Social Justice, and Architecture	
CRP 1222	The Divided City: Urban Studies on Spatial Justice	
DATA 1000	Statistical and Data Literacy	
SS 1120	Introductory Soil Science	
STAT 1110	Applied Statistical Concepts and Methods	
Select from the following: 3		
BIO 2215	Biodiversity of California	
BIO 2217	Wildlife Conservation Biology	
CM 2239	Construction Surveying	
GEOL 2240	Physical Geology	

Select from the following:

3-4

BOT 3311	Plants, People and Civilization
BOT 3326	Plant Ecology
BRAE 3340	Irrigation Water Management
COMS 3316	Intercultural Communication
ES 3360	Indigeneity and the Land
GEOG 3325	Climate and Humanity
NR 3310	Global Climate Change
NR 3349	Water for a Sustainable Society
PLSC 3334	Advanced Plant Materials

CAED Designated Electives

Select from the following:

9

Design Theory/History

ARCE 2280	History of Structures
CM 3318	Housing and Communities
CRP 3303	Smart Cities
CRP 3334	Cities in a Global World
CRP 4428	International Planning and Development
CRP 4433	Latino Urbanism
CRP 4448	Principles of Urban Design

Finance/Legal/Implementation

ARCH 4445	Topics in Architectural Technology and Practice
CM 3334	Construction Law
CM 4475	Real Property Development Principles
CRP 3315	Public and Private Real Estate Development
CRP 4420	Land Use Law
CRP 4446	Development Review and Entitlement
LA 5531	Information Graphics for Landscape and Urban Studies
LA 5538	Advanced GIS Application to Projects

Sustainability

CM 3317	Sustainability and the Built Environment
CRP 4445	Green Infrastructure
CRP 4325	Planning for Bicycling and Walking
EDES 3350	The Global Environment
EDES 4406	Sustainable Environments
LA 5520	Urban Design with Cultural Landscapes
LA 5521	Ecological Urban Design

GENERAL EDUCATION

(See GE program requirements below)

21

FREE ELECTIVES

Free Electives

0

Total Units
146-148
¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.

General Education (GE) Requirements

General Education (GE) Requirements

- 43 units required, 22 of which are specified in Major and/or Support.
- If any of the remaining 21 Units is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.
- See the complete GE course listing (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>).
- A grade of C- or better is required in one course in each of the following GE Areas: 1A (English Composition), 1B (Critical Thinking), 1C (Oral Communication), and 2 (Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning).

Lower-Division General Education

Area 1	English Communication and Critical Thinking	
1A	Written Communication (3 units in Support) ¹	0
1B	Critical Thinking (3 units in Support) ¹	0
1C	Oral Communication (3 units in Support) ¹	0
Area 2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning	
2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (3 units in Support) ¹	0
Area 3	Arts and Humanities	
3A	Arts (3 units in Major) ¹	0
3B	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	3
Area 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	
4A	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement)	3
4B	Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 units in Support) ¹	0
Area 5	Physical and Life Sciences	
5A	Physical Sciences	3
5B	Life Sciences (3 units in Support) ¹	0
5C	Laboratory (may be embedded in a 5A or 5B course) (1 units in Support) ¹	0
Area 6	Ethnic Studies	
6	Ethnic Studies	3
Upper-Division General Education		
Upper-Division 2/5	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning or Physical and Life Sciences	3
Upper-Division 3	Arts and Humanities	3
Upper-Division 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	3

Total Units **21**

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.

Landscape Architecture

Suggested Five-Year Flowcharts are planning guides and do not represent a required course sequence. Courses may be completed in a different order, provided requisite requirements are satisfied.

First Year

Term 1		Units
LA 1104	History of Landscape Architecture (3A) ¹	3
LA 1110	Landscape Representation I	3
EDES 1123	Place, People, and the Built Environment (4B) ¹	3
ENGL 1133 or ENGL 1134	Multilingual Writing and Rhetoric (1A) ¹ or Writing and Rhetoric	3
MATH 1007	Precalculus (2) ¹	3
Units		15
Term 2		
LA 1112	Landscape Representation II	4
LA 1120	Studio I - Beginning Design	3

BIO 1114 or BOT 1121	Plant Diversity and Ecology (5B & 5C) ¹ or General Botany	4
COMS 1101 or COMS 1102	Public Speaking (1C) ¹ or Public Speaking in Digital Spaces	3
Units		14
Second Year		
Term 1		
LA 2220	Studio II - Site Based Design	3
PLSC 2234	Introduction to Plant Materials	3
Major Support 1B Course ¹		3
Designated Elective		3-4
General Education Requirement		3
Units		15-16
Term 2		
LA 2210	Materials and Techniques of Landscape Construction	4
LA 2212	Introduction to Planting Design	3
LA 2222	Studio III - Design for Implementation	3
General Education Requirement		3
General Education Requirement		3
Units		16
Third Year		
Term 1		
LA 2203	Landscape Ecology: Concepts, Issues, and Interrelationships	3
LA 2214	Site Engineering Techniques and Applications	4
LA 3310	Landscape Representation III	3
LA 3320	Studio IV - Landscape Performance and Design	4
Units		14
Term 2		
LA 3303	Theory for Landscape Architects	3
LA 3312	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications for Design Projects	3
LA 3322	Studio V - Environmental Planning and Design	4
Designated Elective		3
General Education Requirement		3
Units		16
Fourth Year		
Term 1		
LA 3304	Contemporary Issues in Cultural Landscapes	3
LA 3306	Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture	3
LA 4420	Studio VI - Community and Social Design	4
Designated Elective		3-4
Units		13-14
Term 2		
LA 4371	Landscape Architecture Internship	4
LA 4410	Sustainability, Resilience, and Climate Ecology in Design	3
LA 4422 or LA 4424	Interdisciplinary Design Studio or Contemporary Issues in Landscape Architecture Design Studio	4
CAED Designated Elective		3
General Education Requirement		3
Units		17
Fifth Year		
Term 1		
LA 4413	Social Equity and Design	3
LA 4461	Senior Project Design Studio I	4
CAED Designated Elective		3
General Education Requirement		3
Units		13
Term 2		
LA 4414 or LA 4415 or LA 4416 or LA 4417 or LA 4418	Advanced Landscape Construction or Advanced Landscape Representation or Advanced Planting Design or Social and Behavioral Factors for Landscape Architecture or Contemporary Issues in Landscape Architecture	3
LA 4462	Senior Project Design Studio II	4

CAED Designated Elective		3
General Education Requirement		3
	Units	13
	Total Units	146-148

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.