LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, M.S.

The graduate program in landscape architecture at UW–Madison provides intensive research training and experience in interdisciplinary approaches to the study of landscape and real-world applications. The department offers a master of science with an emphasis on conducting original research in the form of a thesis and a master of arts based on creating evidence-based design solutions to complex landscape problems. Within both programs students will contribute to developing a scholarly foundation for the discipline of landscape architecture and related fields, and contribute information to practitioners engaged in landscape decision-making and stewardship. The department does not offer a professional master’s degree (MLA).

The graduate program provides an interdisciplinary education that uses the sciences, arts and humanities to respond to current issues in the realms of food and agriculture, natural resource and cultural and environmental stewardship, human health and well-being, and community development. Most students specialize in one of two areas that reflect the research interests of the faculty: restoration ecology and ecological design, and community and urban landscape studies.

The department has well-equipped computer facilities, including CAD, GIS, and graphics software packages.

ADMISSIONS

A bachelor’s degree is required of all prospective candidates. The department’s Graduate Program Committee screens applicants on the basis of university transcripts for all previous work, three letters of recommendation, samples of creative work or writing, and a letter of intent describing how the student’s graduate educational needs can be fulfilled by this program. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores are also required. Every applicant whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English, must provide official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Scores are also acceptable from the Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

FUNDING

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Financial support for graduate students is available through research and teaching assistantships, and competitive Graduate School and departmental fellowships. Most teaching assistantships are awarded to students who already have professional landscape architectural design training and experience.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/requirements), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requirement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Coursework</td>
<td>36 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit</td>
<td>16 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Half of degree coursework must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement
3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements
The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

Assessments and Examinations
Contact the program for information on required assessments and examinations.

Language Requirements
Contact the program for information on any language requirements.

### REQUIRED COURSES

#### Graduate Core (All Students Take)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAND ARC 710</td>
<td>Theories of Landscape Change</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND ARC 720</td>
<td>Critical Inquiry into Landscape Design Expression</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND ARC 940</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar (Two Semesters)</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A course in research methods, as approved by the student's advisor and thesis committee.

An additional two courses within a focus area that are selected by the student and his/her advisory committee.

1 Most likely LAND ARC 740 Research in Landscape Architecture.

#### Community and Urban Landscape Studies Track

Students choose courses in consultation with their advisor.

1 These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

#### Restoration Ecology and Ecological Design Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAND ARC 651</td>
<td>Plant Community Restoration and Management Workshop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND ARC 668</td>
<td>Restoration Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND ARC 866</td>
<td>Seminar in Natural Plant Community Restoration and Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST/ SOIL SCI 695</td>
<td>Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Natural Resources</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F&amp;W ECOL/ BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 360</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supplemental Options (At least one course in two of the following areas)**

**Human-Environmental Interactions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/ SOC 357</td>
<td>Methods of Sociological Inquiry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Civil and Environmental Engineering**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F&amp;W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 504</td>
<td>Wildlife Management Techniques</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F&amp;W ECOL/ LAND ARC/ ZOOLOGY 565</td>
<td>Principles of Landscape Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F&amp;W ECOL/ BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 879</td>
<td>Advanced Landscape Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND ARC 375</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZOOLOGY 504</td>
<td>Modeling Animal Landscapes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZOOLOGY/ AN SCI/ F&amp;W ECOL 520</td>
<td>Ornithology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

Students must take all or demonstrate proficiency.

For example, STAT/F&W ECOL/HORT 571 Statistical Methods for Bioscience I and STAT/F&W ECOL/HORT 572 Statistical Methods for Bioscience II, STAT 301 Introduction to Statistical Methods.

For example, LAND ARC/ENVIR ST 361 Wetlands Ecology.

**POLICIES**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES**

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

**MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES**

**GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

The Graduate Program Handbook (https://dpla.wisc.edu/academics/handbooks) is the repository for all of the program’s policies and requirements.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK**

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**UW–Madison Undergraduate**

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the graduate degree.

**UW–Madison University Special**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 15 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**PROBATION**

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. To ensure they are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects that students meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**

15 credits

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

**OTHER**

n/a

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Be able to engage critically with the scholarship and theory of landscape architecture. (M.S.)

2. Be able to demonstrate advanced critical thinking and the ability to explore ideas in depth and synthesize information with a high degree of competence. (M.S.)

3. Be able to demonstrate an advanced understanding of landscape spaces, functions, and dynamics, as well as interactions between people and the built and natural environment. (M.S.)

4. Be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of and the ability to critically evaluate the principles, theories, technical skills and recent research findings specific to at least one of the program’s focus areas: Restoration Ecology and Ecological Design and Community and Urban Studies. (M.S.)

5. Be able to design and conduct original research, and communicate the results to scholars as well as to practitioners engaged in landscape decision-making and stewardship. (M.S.)

6. Be able to describe and apply principles of ethical and professional conduct. (M.S.)
PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Janet Gilmore, John Harrington, Evelyn Howell, Janet Silbernagel; Associate Professors David Bart, Sam Dennis; Assistant Professors Kristin Thorleifsdottir

https://dpla.wisc.edu/facstaff/faculty