

LANDSCAPE AND URBAN STUDIES, BA

Are you interested in climate justice? Are you interested in inclusive economic development and social justice? Do you want to preserve the beauty in cities and create ecologically sustainable cities? Those are some of the goals you can learn to achieve when you major in Landscape and Urban Studies. You will learn to integrate the biological, physical, and social sciences; humanities; arts; and technology to develop the skills that will help you play an important role in creating a more inclusive and sustainable future.

The major provides students opportunities to specialize in Culture, Health and Community; Restoration and Ecological Design; or Urban Studies. The major also provides students opportunities to explore the design and planning professions. Students who graduate from the major are prepared for starting positions in public or private agencies that oversee conservation, land management, cultural landscape conservation, and planning or for continuing on to graduate school, in particular, professionally accredited programs in Landscape Architecture, Planning, or Environmental Studies. This is the major for people who care about the natural world and human creation by understanding cultural and natural resource protection, green infrastructure, social equity, and policy, and more.

The Landscape and Urban Studies major mixes traditional learning with community-based learning in and out of the classroom. Students are encouraged to take opportunities that supplement classroom learning by engaging in research, study abroad, internships, student clubs, and community interactions. The major engages students in exploring people-place, culture-nature phenomena and how they might, in their professional and personal lives, apply continuous learning to the planning of environments that benefit people, cultures, and the environment at the local, state, national, and global levels.

HOW TO GET IN

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Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

Natural Science & Wellness Complete both:

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

Social & Behavioral Science 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

Total Credits 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree	120 degree credits.
Residency	Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or • is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.
Quality of Work	Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.
Math	Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placing above MATH#160;96, or, • successfully completing MATH#160;96, or • successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH#160;112, MATH#160;113, MATH#160;114, MATH#160;141, MATH#160;211, or MATH#160;221.
English Language	If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earning credit for ESL#160;118, or • achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.
Language	Complete one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or • one course with the second semester Language designation.
Major Declaration	Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Communication	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and • Part B: one course with the Communication B designation
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Quantitative Reasoning	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and • Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation
Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
Language	Complete either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the fourth unit of one language other than English; or • the third unit of one language other than English and the second unit of an additional language.
L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Natural Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science designations, which must include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one 3+ credit course with the Biological Science designation, and • one 3+ credit course with the Physical Science designation.
Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	at least 120 credits
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their School/College to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students interested in the major are required to complete a set of introductory courses, breadth in the major under three categories: Biological and Physical Environment, Social and Cultural Studies and Technology and 18 credits of electives (see an Advisor and the Advising tab for recommended focused elective sets).

Landscape and Urban Studies majors must complete at least 48 credits in the major, including the following:

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
LAND ARC 211	Shaping the Built Environment	3
URB R PL 215	Welcome to Your Urban Future	3
LAND ARC 250	Survey of Landscape Architecture Design	3
Total Credits		9

BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two courses from:		6-9
BOTANY 100 or BOTANY/ BIOLOGY 130	Survey of Botany General Botany	
BOTANY/ ENVIR ST/ ZOOLOGY 260 or BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 460	Introductory Ecology General Ecology	
BOTANY/ GEOG 338	Environmental Biogeography	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 339	Conservation and Climate Change - Local to International Strategies	
PLANTSCI 350	Plants and Human Wellbeing	
SOIL SCI/ ENVIR ST/ GEOG 230 or SOIL SCI 301	Soil: Ecosystem and Resource General Soil Science	
Total Credits		6-9

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two courses from:		6-7
ART HIST 457	History of American Vernacular Architecture and Landscapes	
DS 221	Person and Environment Interactions	
ECON 101 or ECON 111	Principles of Microeconomics Principles of Economics-Accelerated Treatment	
ECON/REAL EST/ URB R PL 420	Urban and Regional Economics	
GEOG 104	Introduction to Human Geography	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 139	Global Environmental Issues	
HISTORY/ ENVIR ST/ GEOG 460	American Environmental History	
LAND ARC 360	Earth Partnership Restoration Education: Indigenous Arts & Sciences	
LAND ARC/ AMER IND 106	Earth Partnership Indigenous Arts and Sciences	
LAND ARC 260	History of Landscape Architecture	

LAND ARC 363	Earth Partnership: Restoration Education for Equity and Resilience	
LAND ARC 373	Mindfulness in Restorative Environments	
LAND ARC/ ANTHRO/ ART HIST/DS/ HISTORY 264	Dimensions of Material Culture	
LAND ARC/ CHICLA 475	Latino Urbanism: Design and Engagement in the American City	
PLANTSCI 380	Indigenous Foodways: Food and Seed Sovereignty	
POLI SCI 104	Introduction to American Politics and Government	
SOC/ C&E SOC 140	Introduction to Community and Environmental Sociology	
URB R PL/ECON/ REAL EST 420	Urban and Regional Economics	
URB R PL/ LAND ARC 463	Evolution of American Planning	
PUB AFFR 240	Evidence-Based Policy Making	
PUB AFFR 380	Analytic Tools for Public Policy	
Total Credits		6-7

TECHNOLOGY

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two courses from:		6-8
LAND ARC 311 or GEOG/ CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST 377	Introduction to Design Frameworks and Spatial Technologies An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	
LAND ARC 460	Advanced Visual Communication in Landscape Architecture	
LAND ARC 511	Geodesign Methods and Applications	
LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST/GEOG/ URB R PL 532	Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Planning	
LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST/ SOIL SCI 695	Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Natural Resources	
Total Credits		6-8

CAPSTONE

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one course from:		3
LAND ARC 668	Restoration Ecology	
URB R PL 595	Landscape and Urban Studies Capstone	
URB R PL 601	Site Planning	
URB R PL 611	Urban Design: Theory and Practice	
Total Credits		3

ELECTIVES¹

Code	Title	Credits
18 credits, chosen from:		
AGROECOL 370	Grassland Ecology	18
ANTHRO/ AMER IND 354	Archaeology of Wisconsin Indians of Wisconsin	
or AMER IND/ C&E SOC/ SOC 578	Poverty and Place	
ANTHRO/ AMER IND/ BOTANY 474	Ethnobotany	
ART HIST 457	History of American Vernacular Architecture and Landscapes	
or ART HIST/ ANTHRO/ DS/HISTORY/ LAND ARC 264	Dimensions of Material Culture	
BOTANY 400	Plant Systematics	
or BOTANY 401	Vascular Flora of Wisconsin	
BOTANY 455	The Vegetation of Wisconsin	
DS 221	Person and Environment Interactions	
ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 360	Extinction of Species	
ENVIR ST/ BOTANY/ F&W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 516	Conservation Biology	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 309	People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture Systems	
or GEOG 501	Space and Place: A Geography of Experience	
or GEOG/ URB R PL 305	Introduction to the City	
or GEOG/ C&E SOC/ ENVIR ST 434	People, Wildlife and Landscapes	
or GEOG 301	Revolutions and Social Change	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 439	US Environmental Policy and Regulation	
GEOG/ENVIR ST/ HISTORY 460	American Environmental History	
LAND ARC 210	Introduction to Landscape Architecture Design Studio	
LAND ARC 321	Environment and Behavior Studio - Designing Health Promoting Environments	
LAND ARC 360	Earth Partnership Restoration Education: Indigenous Arts & Sciences	
LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST 361	Wetlands Ecology	

LAND ARC 363	Earth Partnership: Restoration Education for Equity and Resilience
LAND ARC 373	Mindfulness in Restorative Environments
LAND ARC/ CHICLA 475	Latino Urbanism: Design and Engagement in the American City
LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST 581	Prescribed Fire: Ecology and Implementation
LAND ARC 668	Restoration Ecology
PLANTSCI 380	Indigenous Foodways: Food and Seed Sovereignty
REAL EST/ A A E/ECON/ URB R PL 306	The Real Estate Process
REAL EST/ECON/ URB R PL 420	Urban and Regional Economics
SOIL SCI 323	Soil Biology
URB R PL 411	Marketplaces and Entrepreneurship
URB R PL/ ECON/ENVIR ST/ POLI SCI 449	Government and Natural Resources
URB R PL 512	Gentrification and Urban Restructuring
URB R PL 550	Transportation and the Built Environment
URB R PL 551	Climate Action Planning: Sustainable Transportation
URB R PL 601	Site Planning
URB R PL 611	Urban Design: Theory and Practice
URB R PL/ C&E SOC/ SOC 617	Community Development

Total Credits **18**

RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all LAND ARC and URB R PL courses and courses that count toward the major
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level credits, taken in Residence
- 15 combined credits in LAND ARC and URB PL, taken on the UW-Madison campus

FOOTNOTES

¹ See an Advisor and the Advising tab for recommended focused elective sets

² Intermediate and Advanced level courses accepted in the major are Upper Level

LEARNING OUTCOMES**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Demonstrate competence and critical judgment in creatively applying the intellectual and technical skills necessary for site and landscape-scale natural and cultural resource conservation, planning, and management; these skills include cultural, historical and landscape

literacy, data collection and analysis, spatial and temporal analysis, multidisciplinary problem-solving approaches and communication skills.

2. Demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to explore ideas and synthesize information, both independently and in collaboration with interdisciplinary team members.
3. Understand, apply and evaluate the principles, theories and research findings underlying at least one of the following advising pathways, Ecological Restoration and Design; Culture, Health, and Community; and Urban Studies.
4. Integrate social, cultural, ecological and technological dimensions in solving design and planning problems concerning the conservation or management of sustainable natural and cultural landscapes.
5. Be able to perform as a member of a public, private or non-profits office or agency in the fields represented within the department.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
LAND ARC 250 or 260	3 LAND ARC 211	3
Communications A	3 URB R PL 215	3
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 Biological or Physical Environment (major requirement)	4
Language (if required)	4 Ethnic Studies (complete within your first 60 credits)	3
Physical Science Breadth	3 Quantitative Reasoning B	3
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Major Elective	3 Major Elective	3
Communications B	3 Biological and Physical Environment (major requirement)	3
Social and Cultural Studies (major requirement)	3 Social and Cultural Studies (major requirement)	3
Literature Breadth	3 Literature Breadth	3
INTER-LS 210	1 Electives	3
Elective	3	
	16	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Technology (major requirement)	3 Technology (major requirement)	3
Biological and Physical Environment (major requirement)	3 Biological and Physical Environment (major requirement)	3
Major elective	3 Major elective	3
L&S electives	6 L&S electives	6
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
L&S elective	9 Capstone (major requirement)	3
Major elective	6 Electives	9
	15	12

Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS

DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

Students enrolled in the Landscape and Urban Studies major have three opportunities for advising:

1. The undergraduate academic advising manager (<https://dpla.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/landscape-and-urban-studies/#academic-advising>) assists with general questions about registration, student assistance, and progress in meeting major requirements.
2. Students may choose a faculty advisor (<https://dpla.wisc.edu/faculty-instructors/>) to assist with guidance specific to the curriculum (e.g. coursework, internships, research) and career opportunities.
3. SuccessWorks offers advice on career paths, networking, and job search preparation.

STUDY ABROAD

Learning in Letters & Science emphasizes discovery, growth, understanding different perspectives, and challenging yourself, which makes studying abroad an excellent fit for many L&S students: studyabroad.wisc.edu (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/>)

As a university with global influence, we have more than 300 study abroad programs (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs/>) in over 80 countries. These vary in length, academic focus, teaching format, language requirements, cost, and level of independence. There are many programs to complement every major (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics/major-advising-pages-maps/#L&S>) and any year of college (including the final semester)—and all meet UW–Madison's high academic standards. Students admitted into Letters & Science can even choose a short program in the summer before they start college or their whole first year: studyabroad.wisc.edu/launch (<http://studyabroad.wisc.edu/launch/>). Talk with your academic advisor about how studying abroad might fit with your academic plan.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students

work with UW–Madison faculty and staff. The program has been designed to include partnerships between students and mentors, seminars on research-relevant issues, and practice in research/artistic presentations. The many benefits of the program are found in the fluid interaction between these activities.

WISCONSIN IDEA FELLOWSHIPS

Wisconsin Idea Fellowships (<https://morgridge.wisc.edu/get-connected-students/wisconsin-undergraduate-idea-fellowships/>) are awarded annually to undergraduate student projects working towards solving a challenge identified along with local or global community partner. Fellowships are awarded to semester-long or year-long projects designed by an undergraduate student (or group of students) in collaboration with a community organization and a UW–Madison faculty or academic staff member.

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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HILLDALE UNDERGRADUATE/FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Hilldale Undergraduate/Faculty Research Fellowships (<https://awards.advising.wisc.edu/all-scholarships/hilldale-undergraduatefaculty-research-fellowship/>) support undergraduate research done in collaboration with UW–Madison faculty or research/instructional academic staff. Approximately 100 Hilldale awards are available each year. The student researcher receives \$3,000, and faculty/staff research advisor receives \$1,000 to help offset research costs (e.g., supplies, faculty or student travel related to the project).

HOLSTROM ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Holstrom Environmental Research Fellowship (<https://awards.advising.wisc.edu/all-scholarships/holstrom-environmental-research-fellowship/>) supports undergraduate research done in collaboration with UW–Madison faculty or research/instructional academic staff. Research proposals must have an environmental focus, and applicants must have at least junior standing at the time of application.

UNDERGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

The annual Undergraduate Symposium (<https://ugradsymposium.wisc.edu/>) showcases undergraduate creativity, achievement, research, service-learning and community-based research from all areas of study at UW–Madison, including the humanities, fine arts, biological sciences, physical sciences, and social sciences.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS

The Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (<https://urs.ls.wisc.edu/>) is dedicated to enhancing the academic experience of UW–Madison students by providing first- and second-year undergraduates with opportunities to earn credit for participating in the research and creative