

LANDSCAPE AND URBAN STUDIES, BA

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:

- 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:

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 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:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:

- 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:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

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
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Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
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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.
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L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
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L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
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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.
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Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
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Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
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Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
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Total Credits	at least 120 credits
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UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 credits in residence, overall; and 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit
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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
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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:		
LAND ARC 311	Introduction to Design Frameworks and Spatial Technologies	6-8
or GEOG/ CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST 377	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:		
LAND ARC 668	Restoration Ecology	3
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

ELECTIVES ¹

Code	Title	Credits
18 credits, chosen from:		
AGROECOL 370	Grassland Ecology	18
ANTHRO/ AMER IND 354	Archaeology of Wisconsin	
or AMER IND 250	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