







LA&RP Landscape Architecture
& Regional Planning

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Olver Design Building Rooftop Garden photo by Ngoc Doan MLA



Master's of Landscape Architecture Program Handbook



UMASS
AMHERST

LA&RP
Landscape Architecture
& Regional Planning



The University ... the Town ... and the Region

A Research Institution...

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has an enrollment of approximately 30,000 students, over 20% of whom are graduate students.

The University is comprised of 9 Colleges and Schools. The Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning is in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

In an area with five affiliated Colleges and Universities...

The Five-College consortium of Smith College, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, Hampshire College and UMass Amherst have a coordinated library system and curriculum that allows students to access lectures, events and course offerings across the five campuses.

In a beautiful valley in the historic rolling hills of western Massachusetts...

The town of Amherst is located in the Pioneer Valley, a part of the scenic Connecticut River Valley. The town has a non-student population of 18,000, and the University is located to the northwestern edge of town. A free bus system serves the 1100-acre campus as well as the adjacent towns and the four colleges nearby: Amherst, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke, and Smith Colleges. Almost all graduate students live off campus. There is a wide range of rental options. However, the most convenient housing and affordable properties go quickly, so we recommend that new students plan to arrange for housing in advance of arrival. The University and our Department can assist with information and contacts.

AT LA&RP

MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Master's of Landscape Architecture Program provides an excellent and professionally-accredited education and training in the discipline of landscape architecture. Students learn the fundamentals of the theory and practice of landscape architecture, including the history, principles, techniques, and materials of landscape design. Social and environmental sustainability is at the heart of everything we teach: we create sustainable planning and landscape design solutions to the most vital problems of the twenty-first century, including global urbanization, climate change, and other social and environmental issues as they relate to the built environment.

PROGRAMS

- Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA)
- Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Community Development (BSSCD)
- Associates of Science in Landscape Contracting (AS)
- Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)
- Master of Regional Planning (MRP)
- PhD in Regional Planning (PhD)

Accelerated Degrees:

- 4+1 MRP
- 4+2 MLA

GRADUATE DUAL DEGREES

- Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (MLA/MRP)
- Regional Planning and Law (MRP/JD)
- *WNEU School of Law*
- Architecture and Landscape Architecture (MArch/MLA)
- Landscape Architecture and Historic Preservation (MLA/MDesHP)
- Architecture and Regional Planning (MArch/MRP)
- Regional Planning and Public Policy and Administration (MRP/MPPA)
- Regional Planning and Sustainability Science (MRP/MS3)
- Regional Planning and Civil Engineering - Transportation (MRP/MSCE)
- Regional Planning and Geography (MRP/MSG)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Graduate Certificate in Cultural Landscape Management
- Graduate Certificate in Climate Change and Green Infrastructure



Olver Design Building photo by Stephen Stimson Associates

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The Master's of Landscape Architecture Program

The University of Massachusetts Amherst, is the only public university in New England offering a Master's in Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree.

Established in 1903, our Landscape Architecture Program is the second oldest in the country and is fully accredited through the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board.

In the United States, the professional practice of “landscape architecture” began in the mid-nineteenth century, specifically with the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, who together coined the term to describe their work designing Central Park in New York, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, the Buffalo park system, and other public landscape projects. The system of public landscapes Olmsted designed in Boston created a framework for urban growth based on a response to regional landscape features and systems (such as topography and hydrology) and the design of multi-functional landscapes that served as infrastructure (including multi-modal transportation and storm water management) and offered profound and varied experiences of landscape beauty.

In the twentieth century, landscape architect Norman T. Newton defined the practice as “the art—or the science, if preferred—of arranging land, together with the spaces and objects upon it, for safe, efficient, healthful, pleasant human use.” Today, terms such as “landscape urbanism” are used to describe many of the same principles and methods of the profession, with a new emphasis on sustainable development and innovative technologies that address the great challenges of the twenty-first century: increased worldwide

urbanization and population growth, climate change, environmental degradation, and social and economic inequality.

Landscape architects today design parks, communities, commercial developments, private residences, and institutional grounds. The profession has a special commitment to the stewardship of landscapes and their natural and cultural resources and seeks to create sustainable patterns of development that mitigate environmental impacts and maximize benefits to individuals and society. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) offers this legal description of the practice of landscape architecture:

“Any service where landscape architectural education, training, experience and the application of mathematical, physical and social science principles are applied in consultation, evaluation, planning, design ... relative to projects principally directed at the functional and aesthetic use and preservation of land.” For more information on the profession, see:

<http://www.asla.org/yourpath/docs/WhatISLA.pdf>

In a studio-centered curriculum, students experience expert guidance while engaging real landscape problems ranging across all scales and types including greenways, housing, and recreation

The Master's in Landscape Architecture program prepares students to become leaders throughout the broad range of professional activities which define the profession. The program seeks to provide:

- An understanding of the history of peoples' relationships to the land, and of the fundamental theories of planning and design intervention.
- An understanding of the physical, cultural and biotic forces which influence environmental design.
- Opportunities to creatively engage a broad range of real contemporary problems in planning and design.
- A working knowledge of the information, processes and techniques used in the landscape planning and design professions.
- The ability to communicate with specialists in other design fields and in relevant social and natural sciences.

Graduates of the program work in numerous capacities: as environmental stewards and as guardians of our cultural landscape heritage; as avant-garde designers whose forms and spaces express the fundamental issues of our times; as planners and managers whose design perspective qualifies them to evaluate and create environmental policies; as private practitioners who imaginatively interpret and resolve design problems; and as educators who continue to explore and teach in colleges and universities throughout the world.

The Master's in Landscape Architecture program is designed to serve three groups of people. The first group of students are those who have discovered an interest in landscape architecture after earning

a (non-design) college degree. These people take a year of preparatory courses and then take an additional 48 credits toward their Master's degree, which is typically granted within a three year period.

The second group of students are those who have earned a degree in a related field. These students may enter into the second year (if they qualify), but they often need to take several of the core requirements of the first year preparatory curriculum. These students usually take such required courses in lieu of the elective courses of the second and third year curricula. At the discretion of the admission committee, students with degrees in Architecture or Environmental Design may qualify for this track.

The third group of students are those with an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture from an LAAB accredited school. These students enter the master's program to expand their knowledge in a special area of interest over a two-year period, and often work with a particular faculty member on a research project.

Students from a great diversity of cultural and educational backgrounds enrich the program with broad-ranging perspectives which are brought to bear on common planning and design problems. In a studio-based curriculum, students experience expert guidance while engaging real landscape problems ranging across all scales and types, including greenways, gardens, housing and open spaces, parks, and institutional and recreational landscapes. Through a series of lecture and discussion classes, labs, workshops, and individual research projects students gain the scholarly context necessary for the applied problem-solving of the studios. The MLA is a STEM-designated program.



The curriculum leading to the MLA degree consists of three areas: core courses, electives, and a thesis or Master's project.

Students with a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture or an approved design degree must earn 48 credits within a two-year curriculum. For those possessing substantial professional experience, a special program can be structured around specific research interests. It is also possible for qualified students to earn a joint degree in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. Students who do not have a design background are required to take additional courses beyond the 48 credits within a three-year curriculum.

Course Waivers

Students are allowed to waive required courses if they can demonstrate equivalency in terms of previous course work or experience. This process requires the completion of a course waiver form <https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/forms>. This form must be approved first by the faculty member whose course is to be waived, then by the program director.

A 3.0 average must be maintained for all courses taken. A maximum of two C's are permitted during your entire residency.

Course Sequence

3-Year Program First Professional Degree

| First Year | | | |
|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| <i>Fall Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Spring Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> |
| LA 501 Studio I | 3 | LA 503 Studio III | 3 |
| LA 502 Studio II | 3 | LA 504 Studio IV | 3 |
| LA 592A Plants in the Landscape | 3 | LA 544 History and Theory II | 3 |
| LA 547 & 547L Landscape Pattern and Process & Lab | 3+1 | LA 614 Site Materials | 3 |
| LA 591A Landscape Representation I | 3 | SCD 597A-01 Landscape Representation II | 3 |
| Total Credits 16 | | Total Credits 15 | |

| Second Year | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Fall Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Spring Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> |
| LA 605 Studio V | 3 | LA 607 Studio VII | 3 |
| LA 606 Studio VI | 3 | LA 608 Studio VIII | 3 |
| LA 613 Site Engineering | 3 | LA 635 Research Issues | 3 |
| Elective (Required) | 3 | Elective (Required) | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Total Credits 12-15 | | Total Credits 12-15 | |

| Third Year | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Fall Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Spring Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> |
| LA 609 Studio IX | 3 | LA 651 Professional Practice | 3 |
| LA 610 Studio X | 3 | LA 699 -Master's Research Thesis | 9 |
| 2 Elective (Required) | 6 | or LA 698 -Master's Design Project | 6 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective(s) | 3-6 |
| Total Credits 12-15 | | Total Credits 12-15 | |

2-Year Program

For students with a **LAAB accredited** degree in Landscape Architecture

| First Year | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Fall Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Spring Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> |
| LA 601 Studio V | 3 | LA 603 Studio VII | 3 |
| LA 602 Studio VI | 3 | LA 604 Studio VIII | 3 |
| Electives (Required) | 6 | LA 635 Research Issues | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective(s) | 3-6 |
| Total Credits | 12-15 | Total Credits | 12-15 |

| Second Year | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Fall Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Spring Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> |
| LA 609 Studio IX | 3 | LA 651 Professional Practice | 3 |
| LA 610 Studio X | 3 | LA 699 -Master's Research Thesis | 9 |
| Electives (Required) | 6 | or LA 698 -Master's Design Project | 6 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective(s) | 3-6 |
| Total Credits | 12-15 | Total Credits | 12-15 |

2-Year Program

For students with a degree in Architecture or a **non-LAAB accredited** Landscape Architecture degree

| First Year | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Fall Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Spring Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> |
| LA 605 Studio V | 3 | LA 607 Studio VII | 3 |
| LA 606 Studio VI | 3 | LA 608 Studio VIII | 3 |
| LA 613 Site Engineering | 3 | LA 544 History and Theory II | 3 |
| LA 547 & 547L Landscape Pattern and Process & Lab | 3+1 | LA 635 Research Issues | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Total Credits | 13-16 | Total Credits | 12-15 |

| Second Year | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Fall Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Spring Semester</i> | <i>Credits</i> |
| LA 609 Studio IX | 3 | LA 651 Professional Practice | 3 |
| LA 610 Studio X | 3 | LA 699 -Master's Research Thesis | 9 |
| Electives (Required) | 6 | or LA 698 -Master's Design Project | 6 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective(s) | 3-6 |
| Total Credits | 12-15 | Total Credits | 12-15 |

Course Descriptions

Design Studio Sequence

LA 501 Studio I (3 credits - Fall)

**Introduction, Part One, for Track One Graduate Students

Studio I is an introduction to the skills necessary to envision and explore design. The media of landscape is explored as defining human space in the garden and landscape. This studio encourages students to think creatively; to generate design ideas and understand design as a process through drawing and model making; to gain knowledge of design precedents and principles; and to learn tools and techniques of visual expression. Instructor: Patricia McGirr

LA 502 Studio II Introduction (3 credits - Fall)

**Introduction, Part Two, for Track One Graduate Students

Studio II continues the introduction to landscape design. Students will learn how to conduct a site inventory & analysis, explore conceptual design alternatives and vocabularies, and translate this thinking into a proposal through design development. The studio will advance students' skills in hand-drawn illustrations and introduce Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of visual communication as both an iterative part of the design process and an important means for communication and public presentation. Instructor: Theodore Eisenman

LA 503 Studio III Residential Landscape Design (3 credits - Spring)

The garden is explored here as contemporary art through the design of an individual example. Guided research and discussion sessions explore important works and design theory in the genre. Instructor: Michael Davidsohn

LA 504 Studio IV The Public Realm (3 credits - Spring)

Students in Studio III design a public landscape as part of a sustainable open space system. Site analysis, programming, and public art are emphasized in drawings, and other media.

LA 605 Studio V Site Planning for Housing (3 credits - Fall)

In Studio V, students develop sustainable site planning design skills to support the implementation of housing. Sustainable energy landscapes, stormwater management, and the incorporation of productive landscapes are explored as integral aspects of design aimed at improving ecological health and well-being. Instructor: Carolina Aragón

LA 606 Studio VI Cultural Landscape Studio (3 credits - Fall)

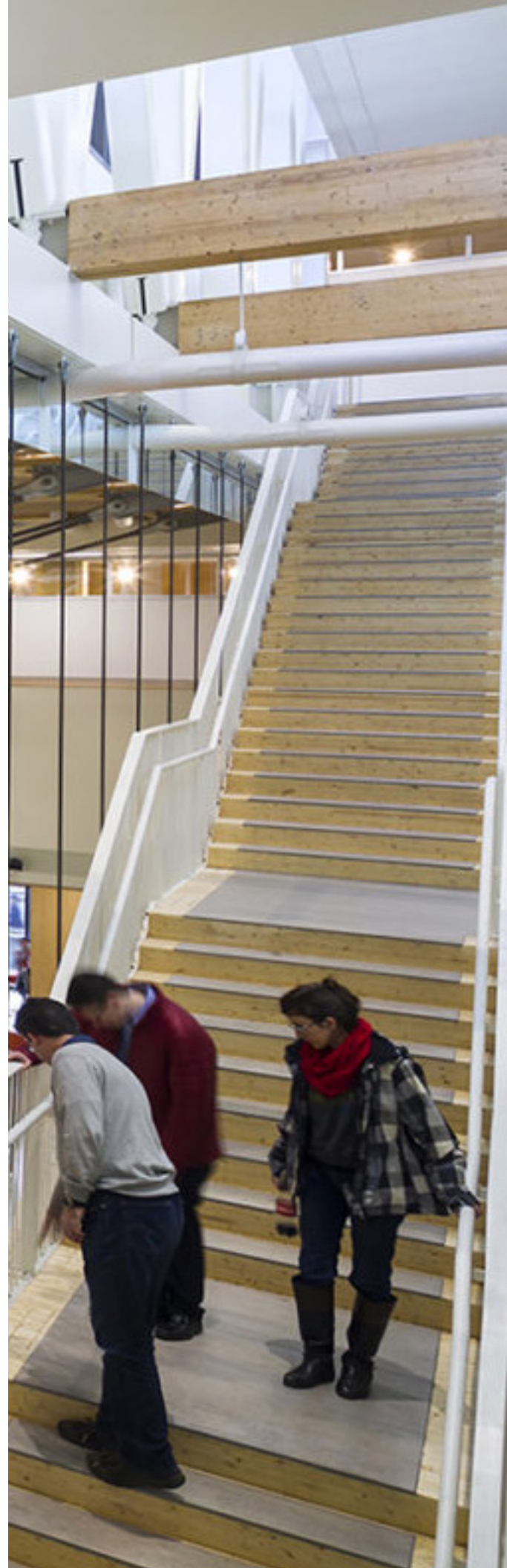
The cultural landscape studio introduces students to the process of research, planning, design, and management of historically and culturally significant landscapes through selected projects for land management agencies and other government or private clients. Instructor: Ethan Carr

LA 607/608 Studio VII & VIII Urban Design, Part I & II (3 +3 credits - Spring)

The studio introduces students to understanding multi-scalar urban systems as a cultural and physical space within a specific project area of an urban neighborhood. Practiced community engagement is teaching students in aligning community goals for developing a diverse planning and design program. Most typically, the studios take place in vulnerable and disenfranchised communities. Novel concepts of tactical interventions create transformative and place-responsive design concepts. Design and planning solutions are generated through synthesizing case studies and design literature. The students will develop an engaging design theme that responds to the complexity of an urban setting including the needs of a diverse urban population. Students gain proficiency in digital representation software and communication tools for professional display. Precedents of sustainable design research complements case studies of applied design. Typically, the urban design studio is coordinated through the UMass Design Center in Springfield, MA. <https://designcenter.umass.edu/>. Instructor: Frank Sleepers

LA 609/610 Studio IX and X Landscape and Climate Resilience, Part I & II (3+3 credits - Fall)

Students learn how to plan and implement landscape projects through a multi-scalar approach. The course focuses on the ability to synthesize information about natural features, human occupation and histories, climatic forecasts, biodiversity and ecological responses, recreational resources, environmental/racial/social justice conditions, and development patterns to create climate responsive landscape systems that address the unique problems and opportunities of the studio study area. The studio encourages speculating on urgent landscape strategies for the climate crisis while recognizing the power and privilege dynamics at play within design, landscape, and the everyday fabric. This studio aims to enhance students' ability to communicate and represent landscape solutions in meaningful and engaging ways through cartographic methods and informative multi-media graphics. Students will explore a range of design and planning tools through research strategies and iterative design processes. Instructor: Samantha Solano



Professional Skills Sequence

Teaches students the skills and knowledge required to implement landscape architectural projects. Includes courses in graphic and written communications, landform manipulation, construction materials, site engineering, and professional practice.

LA 591A Landscape Representation I (3 credits - Fall)

This course offers instruction in the techniques and tools of landscape representation for landscape architects. The emphasis is on hand drawing and basic drafting.

SCD 597A Landscape Representation II (3 credits - Spring)

Introduction to the range of computer applications.

LA 613 Construction I/Site Engineering (3 credits - Fall)

Introduction to the fundamental components of site engineering including: grading and landform manipulation, on-site drainage systems, construction calculations, road alignment, and site design criteria. Development of drafting and AutoCAD skills, with an emphasis on construction document preparation.

LA 614 Construction II/Site Materials (3 credits - Spring)

Introduction to materials and construction techniques used in landscape construction, in the regional framework of the New England landscape and climate. Design details and construction methods are discussed relative to aesthetic and functional concerns, emphasizing the critical relationship between landscape technique and design.

LA 635 Research Issues for Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (3 credits - Spring)

Survey of research issues and methods in landscape architecture and planning. This course is designed to assist students preparing research for their Master's theses and Master's projects.

LA 651 Professional Practice (3 credits - Fall)

Prepares students for entry into professional practice by examining a range of approaches and methods for providing professional services. Encourages the discussion of professional ethics and responsibilities. Topics include: different modes of practice, the evolution of one's career, different models of office organization and procedures, tools and tips for effective marketing, the need for professional collaboration, project management, and professional ethics.

LA 547 Landscape Pattern and Process (4 credits - Fall)

Landscape ecology as applied to planning and design decision-making. Explores landscape structure, function and dynamic processes at multiple scales. Introduces theoretical and technical knowledge that supports sustainable landscape planning, design, and management. Lab includes a series of local field trips and introductory labs in GIS.

LA 592A Plants in the Landscape (4 credits - Fall)

Familiarizes students with woody plants, their use in the creation of outdoor space, roles in ecological processes and horticultural practices related to their establishment and maintenance. In conjunction with LA 547 Landscape Pattern and Process, this class introduces reading the landscape in terms of plant community development and individual species within the New England landscape.

LA 544 History and Theory II (3 credits - Spring)

Continuation of LA 543, from the Renaissance to the present. Emphasis on Europe and North America and landscape design traditions that have led to contemporary design movements. A 'canon' of specific works, individuals, and theories are studied in the context of their time and place. Students learn to see, analyze, and appreciate works of landscape design as the result of the artistic, cultural, and natural forces that have shaped them.

Natural & Cultural Factors Sequence

This set of lecture classes acquaints students with the natural and cultural processes that shape the landscape. They cover the theories and knowledge that explain and inform how planning and design can better serve human and environmental goals in regards to ecological, economic and social concerns.

History Sequence

Designers continue to be informed by the works that preceded them. This sequence provides students with the knowledge of built works of the past and present, and the social, economic, technological, and aesthetic forces that influenced their design and construction.

Thesis Requirements

LA 698 Master's Project (6 credits)

Allows a student to work on an actual or demonstration project to explore various aspects of landscape architecture.

LA 699 Master's Thesis (9 credits)

Preparation of a research paper in an emerging or state-of-the-art area of Landscape Architecture. A full graduate committee and calendar due dates must be met, as outlined in the Graduate School Handbook available at: <https://www.umass.edu/graduate/policies/handbook/degree-requirements>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES

Departmental Electives

(Check SPIRE for more)

Fall Semester

- SCD 533 Urban Greening Theory & Practice
- SCD 574 City Planning
- SCD 592D S-Intro to Urban Design
- LA 587 People and the Environment
- LA 593T Contemporary Theory and Practice
- LA 597Q Urban Design Workshop
- LA 661 Cultural Landscape Value & Policies
- RP 597P Housing Policy in the U.S.

Spring Semester

- LA 591I Green Infrastructure
- LA 592M Material Experiments
- LA 663 Heritage Landscape
- RP 545 Intro to Land Use
- RP 580 Sustainable Cities Seminar
- RP 597S Scenario Planning
- RP 658 Climate Change and Cities

* These courses count toward the Graduate Certificate in Cultural Landscape Management.

** These courses count toward the proposed Graduate Certificate in Green Infrastructure and Climate Change.

Ecological Landscape Planning and Design

- Biology
- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Economics
- Forestry
- Geology
- Geography
- Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- Natural Resource Conservation
- Plant and Soil Science
- Political Science
- Regional Planning
- Resource Economics

Design and Management of Cultural Landscapes

- Anthropology
- Art
- Art History
- Comparative Literature
- Geography
- Psychology
- Regional Planning

Urban Planning and Design

- Art History
- Environmental Science
- Economics
- Education
- Geosciences
- History
- Plant and Soil Science
- Political Science
- Regional Planning

Application of Information Technologies in Design and Planning

- Art
- Architecture
- Computer Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Landscape Architecture
- Management
- Natural Resource Technology

Other Electives

Your program director can suggest specific courses related to each individual concentration within different departments throughout the university.

The Landscape Architecture Program and the larger University of Massachusetts resources can provide students with exciting learning opportunities in several areas. These University resources can either broaden one's education or can help students develop a strength or expertise in a particular aspect of landscape architecture for which the student possesses a special talent or expresses an interest. Listed below are four areas of concentration. Some students may wish to select electives in several of these areas to broaden their education. Others may wish to take several of these electives in one of the concentrations to develop a special strength.



Olver Design Building Rooftop Garden photo by Ngoc Dean M/LA

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master's in Landscape Architecture degree is conferred upon those graduate students who satisfy the following basic requirements:

1. The satisfactory completion of **48 credits** of course work, of which at least 36 credits must consist of masters-level courses given within this Department. (Three-year MLA students must first complete a preliminary year. Credits earned during this preliminary year are not counted towards the 48-credit requirement).
2. Completion of the specific requirements in the Graduate Handbook and regulations of the Graduate School in effect at the time of entry into the program.
3. The preparation of a **Master's thesis or Master's project**. All academic work including the Master's thesis or Master's project must be done in residence.
4. The maintenance of a **"B" average**: Students may not earn more than two "C" grades during their entire tenure.
5. **Successful defense** of Master's thesis or Master's project.

Master's Thesis / Project

1. Decide on a Topic

Prior to or early in the final academic year, you must decide on a topic for a Master's thesis or Master's project. The topic selection is your responsibility and must be approved initially by your Program Director and other appropriate faculty. This is frequently **done during the course, Research Issues.**

2. Select a Committee

After your initial idea is approved, you select a committee suggested by or acceptable to the Program Director and the core faculty. For a Master's thesis, at least three but no more than four members; for a project, at least two but no more than four members. These members should be as follows:

- a. The chair should be a member of the core graduate faculty in your Program. In exceptional circumstances students may request the Program Director in writing that another faculty member be given this role, explaining the reasons for their suitability.
- b. The second member should be a graduate faculty member from the University. If the chair is not a member of the Program's core faculty, then the second member must be.

- c. Other members should be graduate faculty members from the University or Five Colleges.
- d. Students may request in writing to have an outside member who is either a professor at another college or a practitioner. Students doing projects should write a letter to the Program Director, explaining the reasons for the outside member's suitability. Students doing a Master's thesis must submit the person's curriculum vitae to the graduate school along with a justification for their selection. The graduate school will then judge whether to appoint the outsider.

Meetings With Committee

Students should establish with their Master's thesis/project committees a realistic timetable that will allow for the meeting of due dates and should set up regular meeting times with the committee members to discuss progress on the Master's thesis/project.

3. Thesis/Project Outline

If you plan to write a Master's thesis, you must submit a signed copy of the approved Master's thesis outline to the Graduate School at least **four months prior to defending** the final Master's thesis.

Master's projects need the approval of your Program Director only.

4. Proposal

Master's thesis/project proposals shall be **due to the Graduate Program Director by November 15th**, the semester prior to enrolling for the Master's thesis/project. The proposal must be signed and approved by the committee members prior to this date. For students wishing to complete their project in the fall semester, proposals shall be due to the Graduate Program Director by May 1st.

5. Credits Registration

The student shall register for Master's thesis credits (9) or Master's project credits (6) and complete the **Thesis/Project Registration Form** <https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/forms> to be submitted to the Academic Programs Coordinator.

6. Degree Eligibility Form

Students will submit a signed Degree Eligibility Form <https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/forms>, to the Academic Programs Coordinator no later than **March 15th**.

7. Midterm Review

The **week after Spring Break**, the student will have a midterm review of their thesis/project with their committee.

8. Final Draft

Final draft of Master's Project is due to the committee chair by the **last day of classes**.

Master's thesis shall adhere to the Graduate School deadlines. Please see the "Checklist for Master's degree" <https://www.umass.edu/graduate/policies/forms-documents>.)

9. Defense

Oral defenses of the Master's thesis/project shall occur on our **Spring Defense day**. Students must have all committee members sign the LARP Master's General Exam/Defense Form <https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/forms> and submit it to the Academic Programs Coordinator.

10. Final Submission

All students shall submit one digital copy of their Master's thesis/project to the Academic Programs Coordinator.

Additional information regarding University requirements of a Master's Thesis/Project can be found online <http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/current-students/masters-degree-requirements-and-thesis-information>



Credit Load per Semester

Forty-eight credits taken over a four-semester span implies an average of 12 credits per semester, but students may take up to 16 credits per semester.

Independent Study

The Department will allow a maximum of 6 credits earned through Independent Study during a student's entire stay, except for students in the dual degree program who are allowed a total of 9 credits. The policy on Independent Study allows for no more than 3 credits per semester. Students who plan to take an Independent Study must complete an **Independent study form** (<https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/forms>) that specifies the final product of the project: a paper, a formal presentation, drawings or a model are among the possible alternatives. A copy of the form, signed by the faculty supervisor, must be submitted to the Academic Program Coordinator. Independent Study work should be done during the semester credit is received.

Professional Organizations

The Department strongly urges you to join the student chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) or any other relevant professional organization as soon as possible. It is not too early in your career to participate in the activities of these professional associations and there is much to be gained from your membership. You are afforded the additional benefit of reduced rates for membership. <https://www.asla.org/Join.aspx>

Extension for Completion of Degree Requirements

No extensions for completion of degree requirements will be granted unless there is a compelling reason to do so (e.g. sickness).

RESOURCES

Library Resources

As a student in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (LARP) you will have access to an exceptional university library system. Support for your studies and research is provided through collections and services at two libraries. The 27-story W.E.B. DuBois Library, mainly an arts and humanities collection, also houses Government Documents, the Law Collection, Maps, Microforms, Course Reserves, Media, and Special Collections and Archives. Physical and natural sciences materials are found in the Integrated Science and Engineering Library located in the low-rise section of the Lederle Graduate Research Center.

The holdings of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries include more than 5.9 million books, documents, and microfilms. In addition, the Libraries subscribe to approximately 14,500 serial titles. Nearly 300 electronic subscription databases, which locate millions of citations and full-text articles, may be accessed at the Libraries or from any remote location. Your University photo I.D. serves as a library card and allows for borrowing throughout the Five College Library system which includes: Amherst, Hampshire, Smith, and Mt. Holyoke Colleges. The Interlibrary Loan provides service for students to borrow materials not owned by the Five Colleges free of charge.

The Learning Commons is an interactive area on the ground floor of the DuBois Library. Services offered include research and writing support, library services, technology help, as well as campus services in an environment that fosters informal, collaborative and creative work, and social interaction. A café is located in the Library lobby. Five days a week the Learning Commons is open 24 hours. More information regarding specific services available can be found at the website: <https://www.library.umass.edu/locations/learningcommons/>



Madeleine Charney is the Reference Librarian for the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. She is available by appointment and during drop-in sessions to provide one-on-one research consultations and classes on library research methods. She is knowledgeable in the numerous database resources and library materials available related to topics in our field. Of particular interest and value to students in our Department is the LARP Subject Research Guide, an online resource which serves as a starting point for library research:

<https://www.umass.edu/larp/resources/larp-librarian>

Computers

Incoming students to the program are required to have a personal laptop computer.

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning share **two computer labs** in the design building (DB 260 & 235) with the department of Architecture and Building Construction Technology. There are, in total, 70 networked computers with a full suite of software including; Microsoft Office, Adobe CC, ArcGIS, AutoCAD, Rhino, SketchUp, Lumion and other rendering programs. There is also a **printing/plotting lab** that contains a black and white printer, a color printer, and two high-speed plotters. The labs are open to all students in the design building. Wireless Internet is available throughout campus.

There are **11 computers classrooms** (both PC and Mac) throughout the University campus run by UMass Information Technologies (IT). Each classroom has either a black and white or color printer available to Pay-for-Prints. We also share a **GIS Lab** with Geosciences, Forestry and Wildlife Management.

Students are expected to have an **UMass IT account**. This provides e-mail and Internet access from any machine that has a direct (Ethernet) connection or a wireless connection. Information regarding UMass e-mail accounts can be found at <https://www.umass.edu/it/accounts>

Lecture Series

The Departmental Ervin Zube Lecture Series brings in local and national experts to present their work and speak on current trends in the profession.

The Department curriculum is supported by a weekly lecture series, the **Zube Lecture Series** <https://www.umass.edu/larp/zube-lecture-series>, where academics and professionals are brought in to discuss current topics in the field. Local and national experts present their creative work, speak on current trends in the profession, or illustrate the work of their professional organization. Student groups, faculty, and guest faculty members are intermittently invited to present on their current work and research topics.

We also work to stay up to date regarding lecture series through other programs within the University, as topics often overlap with our interests. Our Department regularly informs students of these lectures and guest visitors, some of which take us to other Universities in the Five-College system as well as neighboring towns and local agencies.

The MLA Program also organizes occasional workshop and brown-bag lunch talks with faculty, students, alumni, or visitors.

FACULTY

Core LA Faculty

Aragón, Carolina Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture. Carolina is an artist and educator who uses public art to transform landscapes, engage communities, and teach students. She holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and a Bachelor of Architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Carolina's professional practice in the field of landscape architecture focused on green infrastructure through the creative design of green roofs and sustainable stormwater projects.

Brabec, Elizabeth Professor of Landscape Architecture. B.Sc. in Environmental Agriculture and M.L.A. University of Guelph, Canada, 1984; Juris Doctor, University of Maryland, 1992. Founded and managed the landscape planning firm, Land Ethics, Inc. in Washington, D.C. Teaches real estate law, public participation and leads international field studies programs. Research interests focused on land conservation and the design and planning of sustainable open space; and culture and the historical basis of landscape form.

Carr, Ethan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program. B.A. and M.A. in History of Art and Archaeology, Columbia University, 1983; M.L.A. Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 1991; Ph.D. in Landscape Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art, 2006. Instructor in landscape history, landscape architectural theory, historic preservation and design studios. Has worked extensively with the National Park Service as a historical landscape architect. Author of *Wilderness by Design - Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service*, which received an ASLA award for research.

Clouse, Carey Professor of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. She holds a post-professional degree (SMArchS) in Architecture and Urbanism from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a BArch from the University of Oregon. Clouse is the recipient of the Rose Architectural Fellowship, and prior to UMass has taught architecture at Tulane University and the Yestermorrow Design/Build School.

Davidsohn, Michael Senior Lecturer II of Landscape Architecture. Director of the Stockbridge Landscape Contracting Program. A.S. in Landscape Operations, Stockbridge School of Agriculture, 1986; B.S. in Environmental Design, University of Massachusetts, 1988; M.S. in Landscape Architecture, University of Massachusetts, 1992. Teaches small-scale landscape design, surveying, construction materials, and small business management as it relates to landscape contractors. Owner of design/build firm specializing in private garden construction.

Eisenman, Theodore Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture. M.L.A. and M.P.S. in Natural Resource Management, Cornell University 2002; Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania. Primary research addresses the historical, scientific, cultural, and design bases of urban greening, defined as the introduction or conservation of outdoor vegetation in cities. Teaching includes studios, urban greening seminar, and junior year writing.

McGirr, Patricia Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture Program. B.S. in Landscape Architecture, University of Michigan, 1984; M.L.A., University of Michigan, 1994. Teaches design studios, landscape history, and introduction to the visual environment. Professional experience in both architecture and landscape architecture. Research interests include social, historical, and cultural aspects of landscape, particularly as they relate to gender.

Ryan, Robert L. Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning and Department Chair. Director of the Dual Degree MLA/MRP Program. B.S.L.A., California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo, 1985; M.L.A. and M.U.P., University of Michigan, 1995; Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, 1997. Teaches courses in open space planning and research methods. Research interests include environmental psychology and landscape planning.

Sleegers, Frank Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture. M.L.A., University of Massachusetts, 1995; Dipl-Ing, Hannover, Germany, 1996. Teaches design studios in landscape architecture and urban design. A practicing landscape architect with an office in Hamburg, Germany. He has won competitions in urban design, parks, and plazas, and a special point of interest and research is the building and organizing of site specific ephemeral art work in urban environments.

Solano, Samantha Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. B.S. in Landscape Architecture, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2010; M.L.A., Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She teaches graduate and undergraduate studios and advanced representation courses.

Thurber, Jane Lecturer of Landscape Architecture. Master of Landscape Architecture, Harvard University, 1985; B.A. in Studio Art and English, Hamilton College, 1980. Jane teaches landscape architecture studios and design drawing. Has practiced in Massachusetts, Florida, and New Mexico; and taught in Miami and Tampa. Professional work has focused on the design of public projects - plazas, parks, campuses, streetscapes, and playgrounds.

Regional Planning Faculty & Adjunct Lecturers

Barchers, Camille Assistant Professor of Regional Planning, has practiced as a regional planner throughout Florida, the Southeast and mid-Atlantic. Prior to joining LARP, Camille taught in the Leadership Education and Development program at the Georgia Institute of Technology where she also received her PhD in City & Regional Planning. Camille's work examines how planners use technology and how it changes the way we engage with the public. Her research interests include big data applications for long-range planning, internet communication tools, and land use planning.

Di Pasquale, Michael Extension Associate Professor. Master in Regional Planning UMass Amherst; Master in Architecture Washington University in St. Louis; BA Architecture University of Detroit. Michael Di Pasquale, AIA, is a registered architect and urban planner. He was part-owner of Davis Square Architects in Somerville, Massachusetts for over 12 years. While there his work emphasized urban design and mixed use developments, including housing for persons with special needs. His designs include one of the first housing developments in the nation for persons with AIDS. He is currently working on the design of a mixed use development in Northampton, Mass in association with Davis Square Architects.

Dunn, Peter Lecturer in Regional Planning and B.S. in Sustainable Community Development Program Director. Ph.D. in Urban Design and Planning, 2022; M.Sc. in City Design and Social Science, 2010; B.A. in religious studies, 2005. Teaches both undergraduate and graduate students interested in creating better communities.

Infield, Elisabeth M Professor of Regional Planning and Director of the Ph.D. in Regional Planning Program. B.A. in Business Administration, Cleveland State University, 1984; Masters of Management, Northwestern University, 1986; PhD in City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania, 1997. Teaches growth management, climate change planning, real estate planning and regional planning studio. Current research into the planning adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts to local communities and sustainable community development.

Feiden, Wayne FAICP, Director of the Center for Resilient Metro-Regions. Master's of City and Regional Planning. In addition to teaching in LARP, Wayne is the principal of Plan Sustain, Inc. a mission-driven planning and sustainability consultancy. Previous to that he was Director of Planning and Sustainability for Northampton. He led that city to earn the nation's first Five-STAR Communities rating for sustainability and the highest "Commonwealth Capital" score, the former Massachusetts scoring of municipal sustainability efforts. Wayne oversaw the city's planning, conservation, sustainability, climate framework, and plan implementation efforts.

MacDonald, Dana Adjunct Lecturer. BS Biology University of Michigan - Flint. Dana works on paleo-ecological (Pleistocene/Holocene) reconstructions of drought, fire, and hurricanes as well as use pollen analysis to reconstruct vegetation. MacDonald also conducts field work using sediment coring in coastal environments mostly from New England south to Central America.

Mullin, John R Professor Emeritus of Regional Planning, Director of the Center for Economic Development, and Dean of the Graduate School. B.A., Government, University of Massachusetts, 1967; M.R.P., Community Planning and Area Development, University of Rhode Island, 1969; MSBA, Boston University, 1972; Ph.D., Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo, Ontario, 1975. Specialties: Research, teaching and outreach focused on regional economic development strategy and adaptive reuse/redevelopment in mill towns.

Pader, Ellen Associate Professor Emerita of Regional Planning and Director of the JD/MRP Program. B.A. in Art History and English, Kenyon College, 1972; Ph.D. in Anthropology, Cambridge University, 1981. Teaches social issues in planning from inter-ethnic and cross-cultural perspectives, including: identifying discriminatory practices on the basis of ethnicity, race, gender and class; social change; housing policy and social policy. Major area of research is the cultural, social, and political facets of housing policy and design.

Ramsey-Musolf, Darrel Associate Professor of Regional Planning. PhD, Housing Policy and Analysis, UW-Madison, 2013; MURP, Cal Poly Pomona, 2004; MPA, Suffolk University, 2000; BA, Dance, UCLA 1990. As an instructor, his courses (e.g., Planning Studio, Housing, Land-Use/Growth Management) will reflect his research interests, including: Urban Morphology (i.e., cities, housing, infill, and redevelopment), Regionalism (i.e., inter-governmental relations, urban containment), Planning Praxis (i.e., private capital, public interest, and political will; balancing theory and practice).

Renski, Henry Professor of Regional Planning and Director of the Master of Regional Planning program. Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2006. M.R.P., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1998. B.A., University of Southern Maine, 1995. Former Special Assistant to the Governor of the State of Maine in Economic Development. Teaches GIS and economic development. Research focuses on understanding the forces driving regional economic competitiveness and transformation, and building upon this knowledge to improve the effectiveness of economic development policy.



MLA The Public Realm studio Model making photo by Eronne Gong MLA '12

Admission Requirements

The basic admission requirements and procedures of the University Graduate School and the Department are as follows:

1. A Bachelor's degree or the equivalent from an accredited college or university with recognized standing.
2. A minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0.
3. In addition to the information required on the application form:
 - A copy of official transcripts of all previous college work (undergraduate and any graduate work).
 - Two letters of recommendation.
 - A personal statement that outlines your goals for graduate study (1-3 pages).
 - A portfolio of creative work.

You can see the Graduate School's list of requirement for domestic students or international students.

<https://www.umass.edu/graduate/apply>

Portfolio

All students applying to the MLA or Dual Degree Programs must submit a portfolio to enable us to assess your creative potential. Since many applicants do not have a design background, the portfolio may contain graphic and/or written work which you feel express your creativity. Past portfolios have included reproductions of sketches and paintings; photographs of landscapes or places visited; creative writing examples; photographs of sculpture, pottery, quilts, furniture, stone walls and jewelry created by the individual. You may create work solely for the portfolio, but it should contain examples of how your creativity is currently manifested in your life.

These materials should be submitted to the Graduate School. Incomplete applications or those not received by the specified deadline will be considered only if the program's quota of entering students has not been filled.

To fill out your application online go to the Graduate School website

<https://www.umass.edu/graduate/apply>.

We are looking for students who have a balance between scholarship and creativity as the profession is a balance between art and science.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Tuition and fees are subject to change without prior notice. You may view all current fees at the University's Bursar's Office web page: <https://www.umass.edu/bursar/tuition/graduate-tuition-rates>

While in graduate school, many students are in need of financial assistance. The Department offers a number of fellowships, assistantships, and work-study programs. Preference is given to students already enrolled, but entering students in need of financial aid are encouraged to discuss this possibility with the Department Chair or their

Program Director. The Department's ability to assist students financially varies from year to year. Any student receiving an assistantship receives a tuition waiver plus the waiver of some fees for that semester.

The university maintains an office dedicated to helping graduate students with grants and fellowships.

Graduate Students Grants Office

<https://www.umass.edu/graduate/funding>

413-545-5279

gsgs@grad.umass.edu.








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Olver Design Building Rooftop Garden photo by Ngoc Doan MLA