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.

**DEGREES OFFERED**

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

**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)
- Architecture and Regional Planning (MArch/MRP)
- Regional Planning and Public Policy and Administration (MRP/MPPA)

**CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

- Graduate Certificate in Cultural Landscape Management
- Graduate Certificate in Climate Change, Hazards and Green Infrastructure
A CARNEGIE RESEARCH 1 INSTITUTION...

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has an enrollment of approximately 26,000 students, 22% 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 system 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 available of all sizes and for all types of budgets. 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.
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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 planning and design of park and parkway systems was an early and distinctive form of American urbanism. The systems of public landscapes Olmsted designed in Boston, for example, 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.
THE PROGRAM

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 capacity 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 such as environmental design or architecture. These students can enter into the second year, 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.

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 funded 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 curriculum leading to the MLA degree consists of three areas: core courses, electives, and a thesis or master project.

Students with a bachelor’s degree in Landscape Architecture or an approved Environmental 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 coursework or experience. This process requires the completion of a course waiver form, available from the graduate program secretary. This form must be approved first by the faculty member whose course is to be waived, then by the program director. In general, if 80% or more of the course material has been covered a waiver is granted. If 50-80% of the course material has been taken then instructor may negotiate an appropriate instructional arrangement (e.g. audit, independent study). If less than 50% of the material has been covered then the waiver is not granted. It should be noted that a course waiver does not reduce the total number of credits required for a degree but rather affords the student more flexibility in pursuing areas of interest.

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

## 3-Year Program First Professional Degree

### First Year

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<td>LA 544 History and Theory</td>
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<td>LA 614 Site Materials</td>
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* Classroom portion of LA547 can be taken in summer as an on-line course, with 1 credit lab in fall.

### Second Year

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<td>LA 604 Studio VII</td>
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<td>LA 606 Studio VIII</td>
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<td>LA 651 Professional Practice</td>
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<td>LA 609 Studio X</td>
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<td>LA 699 -Masters Research Thesis</td>
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<td>LA 697W Interdisciplinary Design Collaboration</td>
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<td>or LA 698 -Masters Design Project</td>
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2-Year Program

For students with a LAAB accredited degree in Landscape Architecture

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<td>LA 603 Studio VI</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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2-Year Program
For students with a degree in Architecture or a non-LAAB accredited Landscape Architecture degree

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<td>LA 601 Studio V</td>
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<td>LA 603 Studio VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA 613 Site Engineering</td>
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<td>LA 547 Landscape Pattern and Process* &amp; Lab</td>
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* Classroom portion of LA547 can be taken in summer as an on-line course, with 1 credit lab in fall.

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<td>Total Credits</td>
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The online registration system, SPIRE, is somewhat behind in its descriptions of the MLA studio sequence. The following studio descriptions are what you can actually expect. Register for the studios online as usual (by course number).

### Design Studio Sequence

**LA 501 Studio I (3 credits - Fall)**

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

Studio I is an introduction to the skills necessary to envision and explore design. The media of landform, water, plants, and structures are explored as defining agents of 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.

**LA 503 Studio II Introduction (3 credits - Fall)**

*Fundamentals, 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.

**LA 504 Studio III Garden Design (3 credits - Spring)**

Studio III introduces the concepts and techniques of residential design at the scale of the garden. As students move to a real site and client, the garden is explored as a contemporary art through the design of an individual example. Precedent study and appropriate site analysis techniques are introduced as part of the design process.

**LA 506 Studio IV Landform & Landscape Design (3 credits - Spring)**

Students in Studio III design a public landscape as part of a sustainable open space system. Site analysis, programming, and techniques of public engagement and strategies of public landscape activation (programming) are introduced. Strategies for sustainable site development will be used in design. Use of conceptual grading and drainage strategy in design. Media move into CAD, Illustrator, Photoshop for landscape representation.
LA 601 Studio V Site Planning for Housing (3 credits - Fall)
In Studio V, students develop an understanding the legal context and as well as the topographic and environmental contexts when site planning for housing. Students are introduced to fundamental site planning and site engineering criteria and technology and employ them in the design of a sustainable community. Precedents of community design are studied and ARC GIS is introduced for site analysis.

LA 603 Studio VI Cultural Landscape Studio (3 credits - Fall)
Studio 6 introduces students to the process of research, design, and management of historically and culturally significant landscapes through selected projects for land management agencies and other government or private clients. Historic preservation theory, methods, and regulations introduced. Research techniques and site analysis and representation are emphasized using ARCGIS and techniques drawn from National Park Service and other methodologies.

LA 604 Studio VII Urban Design, Part One (3 credits - Spring)
The Urban Design Laboratory introduces students to strategies of land reclamation and program for a large scale industrial land for sustainable reuse. The design is explored through laboratory meetings and open discussions, study models, and design research. The first seven weeks emphasize site research, theory and precedent in urban design, methods of public engagement, and conceptual goals in contemporary urban design.

LA 606 Studio VIII Urban Design, Part Two (3 credits - Spring)
Continuation of the Urban Design Laboratory, with application of urban design theories as they apply to various scales of urban design. Special attention focused on civic scale design elements and organization of spatial and functional requirements.

LA 607 Studio IX Greenways (3 credits - Fall)
In Studio IX students learn greenway planning: how to plan and implement open space protection at a landscape scale. This will require the ability to synthesize information about natural features, cultural resources, and development patterns to create a greenway network that addresses the unique opportunities and program of the study area.

LA 609 Studio X Interdisciplinary Studio (3 credits - Fall)
This studio is organized as a collaboration with the architecture department, and landscape and architecture students work together on a common site and program.
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.

**Professional Skills Sequence**

**LA 587 People and the Environment (2-3 credits - Fall)**
Environmental psychology is an interdisciplinary field, which studies the relationship between the physical environment and human behavior. The premise is that people’s behavior (e.g., well-being, emotions, productivity, and even personal relationships) is affected by the physical environments where they live, work, and play. This graduate seminar is designed to introduce environment-behavior research to landscape architecture and regional planning students.

**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 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 their research on 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 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 692F Computers in Environmental Design (3 credits - Spring)**
Introduction to digital tools used for landscape architecture and design thinking, including AutoCAD, graphics and image editing, 3-D modeling and animation, data management and integration. These applications and digital tools are integrated into various studios.
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.

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.

### Natural and Cultural Factors Sequence

**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 591F Green Urbanism (3 credits - Spring)**
Landscape/Green urbanism is an interdisciplinary subject including concepts, theories and practice from: landscape architecture, architecture, regional planning, urban planning, urban design, and landscape ecology - among others. While not a widely known or an officially accepted term, landscape/green urbanism has expressions/manifestations throughout the world, at multiple scales, contexts, and addressing diverse goals and objectives.

**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, introduces reading the landscape in terms of plant community development and individual species within the New England landscape.

### History Sequence

**LA 543 History and Theory I (3 credits - Fall)**
Introduction to the historic forces that have shaped the man-made environment from ancient civilizations to the Renaissance as manifested in particular environments. Students are expected to understand historic and geographical contexts, and cultural forces that have contributed to changes in the built environment.

**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.
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:
http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/policies-forms/graduate-student-handbook
Recommended Departmental Electives

(Check SPIRE for more)

Summer On-Line Courses

LA 547  Landscape Pattern and Process
RP 625  Intro to GIS in Planning **
RP 591C  Climate Adaptation for Urban Areas**
RP 591P  Low Carbon Cities**

Fall Semester

SCD 574 City Planning (Hamin)
SCD 591M S-Planning for Industrial Development (Mullin)
SCD 592D S-Intro to Urban Design (Di Pasquale)
LA 587 People and the Environment (Ryan)
LA 591K S-Advanced Topics in Green Infrastructure (Ahern) **
LA 603 Cultural Landscape Studio (Carr)*
LA 663 Heritage Landscape Management (Carr)*
LA 692A S-Digital Technology (Lindhult)
RP 630 Public Participation*

Spring Semester

LA 582 Green Urbanism Seminar (Ahern) **
LA 591A Roots and Branches of Landscape Architecture (Volpe)
LA 591I S-Advanced Topics in Green Infrastructure (Ahern) **
LA 603 Cultural Landscape Studio (Carr)*
LA 661 Landscape Documentation (Brabec) *
LA 662 Cultural Heritage and International Sustainability (Montenegro-Menezes) *
LA 692A Digital Technology Seminar (Lindhult)
RP 553 Resource Planning and Policy (Montenegro-Menezes)
RP 580 Sustainable Cities Seminar (M Hamin)
RP 645 Intro to Land Use (Ramsey-Musolf)
RP 658 Climate Change and Cities (E Hamin) **

* 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.

International Students

In order to be considered for Teaching Assistant positions, international students must take the University SPEAK test (you are exempt if you scored 26 or higher in the Speaking section of the TOEFL iBT).

International students who are offered a Teaching Assistantship must sign up for the Speak test outside Room 518 Goodell Hall. The tests will take about an hour and will take place at 358 North Pleasant Street.

Students who do not pass the test are encouraged to take the English Communication Instruction classes offered throughout the year by the Center for Language, Speech, and Hearing at the Graduate School.

For other international students who need to improve their language skills, English as a second language (ESL) are available through the University of Massachusetts, see http://www.umass.edu/esl/index.html.

You are strongly advised to explore these electives if your spoken English presents an obstacle to your success here.
Other Electives

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 to develop strength or expertise in a particular aspect of landscape architecture for which the student possesses a special talent or expresses an interest. Below we have listed 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.

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The Masters 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 28 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.

Students Entering with Related Graduate Degree

There are two ways for students who enter with a related graduate degree to modify the normal degree requirements:

1. Up to 18 credits in the form of course waivers may be granted with the approval of the Program Director and the filing of an official transcript. Note again that this option does not reduce the total number of credits required for graduation.

2. Up to 12 credits that have been earned in addition to the requirements of a previous graduate degree may be transferred also with the approval of the program director. In this case the transferred credits can be included as part of the total credits required for graduation.

Transfer of Non-Degree Credit

A maximum of 6 non-degree credits at the University of Massachusetts may be transferred, but students entering with a previous graduate degree may transfer these credits in addition to credits obtained via the process described in the previous section. Non-degree students, who are taking the first year preparatory courses, will receive credit for all these preparatory courses without the need to transfer them. Non-degree students are required to complete an official application to the program. Admission to the program for such students is on a competitive and space-permitting basis.

Current students are encouraged to take advantage of internships available through the department. These Independent Study courses may be arranged through the program director. Graduate credit is available for these courses.
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.

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 as listed in the handbook. 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. This letter will be placed in the student’s file. This other faculty member must be from either the Department or from the list of Adjunct Professors in the handbook (Note: Adjunct Lecturers are not eligible to be chairs).
- 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, with a copy to the graduate secretary, explaining the reasons for the outside member’s suitability. This letter will be placed in the student’s file. 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.

If you plan to write a Master’s thesis, you must complete a form letter for the Graduate School (available in the Department Office), and submit that letter along with a signed copy of the approved Master’s thesis outline to the Graduate School at least four months prior to submitting the final Master’s thesis. Master’s projects need the approval of your Program Director only.
Master’s theses and project proposals shall be due to the Graduate Program Director by November 15, the semester prior to enrolling for the Master’s project. The proposal must be signed and approved by the committee 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 15.

Signed proposals will be kept in the student’s file and the student shall register for Master’s thesis or Master’s project credits with their respective committee chairperson.

Final drafts of the Master’s project are due to the committee chair by the last day of classes. (Master’s thesis shall adhere to the Graduate School deadlines).

An oral defense of the Master’s thesis, project or three-course option shall occur by the last day of exams during the semester in which the student will be graduating.

All students shall submit one copy of their Master’s thesis and three copies of their Master’s project to the department. Master’s theses and Master’s projects shall be submitted in the official red binding approved by the graduate school. Projects may vary slightly in format with approval of the project committee. It is also customary for students to give each member of their committee a bound copy of this document in the same official red binding. Professional binding is available through local copy services.

Meetings With Committee

Students should establish with their Master’s thesis/Master’s project committees a realistic timetable that will allow for the meeting of due dates and should set up regular meeting times (once every week or so) with the committee members to discuss progress on the Master’s thesis/Master’s project. Students should avoid a situation where they only work separately with individual committee members.

Additional information regarding University requirements of a Master’s Thesis or Master’s Project can be found online at: http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/current-students/masters-degree-requirements-and-thesis-information
Formal Defense Procedures

Every candidate for the Master’s degree must pass a general examination focusing on his/her Master’s project, Master’s thesis, or three-course option. This examination is called the formal defense or formal presentation. The formal defense is an oral examination and is conducted by the thesis or project committee, or by the three-course option advisor.

Formal defenses are scheduled by the chair/advisor when s/he feels that the candidate has completed a substantial part of the Master’s project and has shown strong indications that full completion will occur soon. The committee/chair or the student may invite others to the formal defense. These defenses are frequently conducted on one day late in the spring semester; however from time to time that date is not convenient for all committee members and so separate defenses may be held. The recommendation of at least two members of a two or three person committee, or three members of a four-person committee, shall be required to receive the degree. For a three-course option the chair must approve.

If the student passes the defense, s/he should have the chair/advisor sign the memorandum of “General Examination” (available from the Graduate Secretary) and see to it that it is immediately placed in the student’s file. If the student does not pass the defense, s/he has the option of leaving without the degree or requesting permission to return for an additional semester as a student in residence. Approval by a majority of the defense committee is needed to approve this latter option. It should be noted that passing the General Examination is a necessary condition for receiving the degree. Students must also pass all other requirements, including having their committee approve the completed thesis or project.
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 15 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. More specifically, the policy on Independent Study allows for no more than 3 credits per semester. Students who plan to take an Independent Study must complete a form that, among other things, specifies the final product of the project. The final product may take a number of different forms: a paper, a formal presentation, drawings or a model are among the possible alternatives. A copy of the form, signed by the student’s advisor and faculty involved with the project, should be submitted to the Graduate Program Secretary, and will be kept in the student’s personal file. In all cases, all Independent Study work should be done during the semester credit is received. Finally, Independent Study cannot be used to collect data for a Master’s thesis/Master’s project. Copies of the Independent Study form are available from the Graduate Secretary.

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.

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).

Long Distance Completion of Degree

In the past, many students have finished their degrees from afar; relying on faculty and staff to make phone calls, arrange meetings, and complete forms. Again, a compelling reason must be demonstrated to extend this favor.
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 include: 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: http://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: http://guides.library.umass.edu/landscape
The Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning has one computer lab with 15 networked computers with a full suite of software including Microsoft Office, Adobe CC, ArcGIS, AutoCAD and other rendering programs. This lab contains a black and white printer, a scanner, and a high-speed plotter. The Department also houses an Ethernet lab which contains 15 large-screen monitors and ethernet cables so that students may plug in their laptops to work with greater visibility and without wireless internet interruption. This lab also contains a black and white printer, a color printer, a scanner, and a plotter. The labs are open to all students in the department during the day with a key sign-out available for evening and weekend use. Wireless Internet is available throughout the campus.

There are eleven computers classrooms (both PC and Mac) throughout the University campus run by the Office of Information Technologies. 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 computer 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 http://www.umass.edu/it/

Incoming students in the Landscape Architecture Program are required to have a laptop computer. More information can be found: https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/computing
The Department curriculum is supported by a weekly lecture series, the 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 throughout 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.
Although each member of the faculty will have a primary assignment in one of the graduate programs, all faculty are involved at some level in the Landscape Architecture Program. Thus students have the benefit of a large number of academic staff, and are encouraged to discuss their interests and problems with any of them.

Core Faculty

Ahern, Jack  Professor of Landscape Architecture and Vice Provost for International Programs. B.S. in Environmental Design, University of Massachusetts, 1974; M.L.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1980; Ph.D., Wageningen University, 2002. Teaches plants, landscape ecology, design studio, landscape urbanism, and landscape architecture study tour. Experience in private practice involving site and environmental planning and design. Research interests include: sustainable urbanism, landscape ecology for landscape planning design and management.

Aragón, Carolina  Assistant 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  Assistant 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  Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture. B.S. in Journalism, University of Maryland; M.P.S. in Natural Resource Management, Cornell University; M.L.A. Cornell University; Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania. Theodore’s principle scholarly interest concerns the historical, scientific, cultural, and design bases of urban greening, defined here as the introduction or conservation of outdoor vegetation in cities. He believes that design is a powerful tool for enhancing human and ecological potentials, and this informs his approach to landscape architecture and urban planning. Prior to starting at UMass, Eisenman was an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in the Humanities Institute at The New York Botanical Garden. His career spans research and practice with a range of federal, municipal, and nonprofit organizations including the Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, Scenic Hudson, Trust for Public Land, U.S. Forest Service, and Washington, D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation. He has been a regular contributor to Landscape Architecture Magazine on ecological design topics, and is currently a Review Editor at Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution journal. Raised in Sweden and the U.S., and having worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, he is also interested in international affairs.


McGirr, Patricia  Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the undergraduate program in Environmental Design. B.S. in 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. Director of the Dual Degree MLA/MPR 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  Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture. M.L.A., University of Massachusetts, 1995; Dipl–Ing, Hannover, Germany, 1996. Teaches design studios in landscape architecture design 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.

**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.

**Volpe, Joseph S.R.** Professor of Landscape Architecture. B.S. in Plant Science, University of California at Los Angeles, 1958; B.L.A., University of California at Berkeley, 1961; M.L.A., Harvard, 1964. Teaches courses and studios in landscape architecture design, including a foundation studio on landscape media and the definition of garden and landscape space, the studio in urban design, and seminars on current issues in planning and design. Has developed a system of teaching using a sequence of three-dimensional spatial models to understand the media of the landscape, landform, water, plants, and structures and to design human spatial experiences. Professional work includes both public and private practice in South America, New Zealand, France and North America on projects ranging from large-scale design to gardens. Professor Volpe explores the dynamics of landscape architecture as an art form and as a political and community process.

**Additional Departmental Faculty**

**Di Pasquale, Michael** Extension Assistant 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.

**Hamin, Elisabeth M** Professor of Regional Planning and Department Head. 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.

**Hamin, Mark** Senior Lecturer in Regional Planning and Director of the Master of Regional Planning Program. B.A. History and B.A. Philosophy, Brown University, 1984; Ph.D. History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, 1999. Teaches urban history and theory. Research
includes: the influence of life sciences on planning; urban infrastructure and ecological history; social, economic and cultural perspectives on environmental risk, security, and ‘quality of life’ in cities; and technologically transformed food ecologies/economies.

**Montenegro-Menezes, Flavia** Assistant Professor of Regional Planning. 
Dipl. Architecture and Urbanism, University Izabella Hendrix, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 1995; Master’s in Integrated Territorial Planning, DESS, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development, France, 2001; Ph.D., Social Sciences, Territorial Planning and Environment, l’Institut des Sciences et Industries du Vivant et de l’Environnement (Agro Paris Tech), Doctoral School ABIES, Paris, France, 2009. Research addresses cultural heritage planning relative to urban-regional sustainability, focusing on international, interdisciplinary, community-based projects. She uses participatory approaches to document the cultural significance of heritage to local residents and other stakeholders, and teaches courses on cultural heritage preservation, sustainable management practices, and regional resource planning.

**Mullin, John R** Emeritus Professor of Regional Planning, Director of the Center for Economic Development, and Dean of the Graduate School. 

**Pader, Ellen** Associate Professor 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** Assistant 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** Assistant Professor of Regional Planning and Director of the Ph.D. in Regional Planning Program. 
Adjunct Faculty and Affiliated Lecturers

**Flinker, Peter** received a Master’s degree in landscape architecture from the University of Massachusetts in 1987 and has been with Dodson Associates (now Dodson & Flinker) ever since, becoming a principal in 1999 and named partner in 2012. As both a registered landscape architect and member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the focus of his work has been projects that bridge the gap between site design and planning at the town and regional scale.


**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. I also conduct field work using sediment coring in coastal environments mostly from New England south to Central America.
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:
   • Two copies of official transcripts of all previous college work (undergraduate and any graduate work).
   • Official scores of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
   • 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 online for domestic students or international students. http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/admissions
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 applicant. The portfolio 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 on line go to the Graduate School website https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/admissions

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

While in graduate school, many students are in need of financial assistance. The Department offers a number of fellowships, assistantships, and work-study programs. Although preference is given to students already enrolled, entering students in need of financial aid are encouraged to discuss this possibility with the Department Head 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. Funding promised to incoming students is guaranteed for the first year only. Incoming foreign students are eligible to apply for a tuition waiver through the Department Head. Current foreign graduate students with one of these waivers need to reapply during the spring semester of their first year for a waiver for the following year. They are not automatically renewed.

In addition, the university maintains an office dedicated to helping graduate students with grants and fellowships. The Graduate Students Grants Office (http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/funding-support) can be reached by phone at 413-545-5279 or by e-mail at gsgs@grad.umass.edu.