SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

GRADUATE COUNCIL

concerning

CREATION OF A DUAL MASTER’S
MASTER’S OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND
MASTER’S OF DESIGN (HISTORIC PRESERVATION)
(#5241)

Presented at the
780th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
October 18, 2018

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Neal Abraham, Sonia Alvarez, Joseph Black, D. Anthony Butterfield, Ana Caicedo, David Cort,
Jennifer Friedman, Mark Hamin, Neil Immerman, Cynthia Jacelon, Ramakrishna Janaswamy,
Barbara Krauthamer, John Lopes, Chair, John McCarthy, David Morin, Martina Nieswandt,
MJ Peterson, Sarah Pfatteicher, Sarah Poissant, Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, Frederic Schaffer,
Patrick Sullivan, David Vaillancourt, Tilman Wolf, Kristine Yu

GRADUATE COUNCIL

The Graduate Council recommends approval of this proposal.

Briefly describe the Proposal

Curriculum Outline

Provide a Curriculum Outline of Core Courses and Elective Courses for Each of the Separate Degrees.
Core Requirements

Describe of how core requirements from each program will be met, with no fewer than 30 credits coming from each program and a credit savings of no more than 20% between the programs.

The Master's of Landscape Architecture degree requirements will be met in full (48 in two years).
The Master's of Design (Historic Preservation) will be met in full (36 credits).
Eighteen (18) credits within the MLA degree program will count towards the MDes degree, for a 21% percent reduction. See attachment.

Thesis

If a thesis is required in either program, the dual master's option must require a thesis. Do either or both programs require a thesis?

Yes

Comments: The Master's of Landscape Architecture Thesis or project will be joint with the Master's of Design (Historic Preservation).

Cooperating Departments

Provide arguments from cooperating departments which discuss the need and inherent value of combined programs.

See attachment.
PROGRAM TITLE:
New Dual Degree: Master of Landscape (MLA) Architecture/Master of Design (MDes)

GRADUATE DEPARTMENTS:

Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (Robert Ryan, Chair), College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (John A. Hird, Dean)

Architecture (Stephen Schreiber, Chair), College of Humanities and Fine Arts (Julie C. Hayes, Dean)

Submission Date:

Proposed Starting Date:

I. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (LARP) and the Department of Architecture propose to offer a dual degree program: Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Design (MLA/MDes), within a minimum of three years of full-time study. The professions of landscape architecture and design (including historic preservation) are closely related in numerous ways. Many positions in the municipal as well as private sector can best be filled by persons who possess the knowledge and skills of both landscape design and historic preservation. Faculty from both departments consider this a desirable part of our strategic plan and have together developed and refined this proposal.

II. PURPOSE AND GOALS

Landscape is, as a great geographer once wrote, history made visible. This proposed dual degree program will build on the cross-disciplinary collaboration already established in the Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and History departments. The dual degree in landscape architecture and historic preservation will realize the potential of faculty and students working together across departments and programs to achieve a comprehensive approach to the research, design, and interpretation of historically and culturally significant landscapes, globally.

The MLA/MDes degree permits the mastery of core knowledge and skills in both landscape architecture and historic preservation in three years (for students with an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture) or in four years (for those with no previous design degree). This is a reduction from the four or five years, respectively, that would otherwise be required to complete the degrees individually. It does so by eliminating duplicative coursework in analytical methods and general concentration electives.

The MLA core curriculum is designed to provide students with a strong technical foundation and intensive studio and skill training, applicable to a wide variety of design issues. The core of this professionally-accredited degree is based on combining theoretical, historical, social, political, and technical dimensions of landscape architecture with emphasis on practice through studio and service to nearby communities. For students with no previous design degree, the program includes an introductory year in addition to the two-year (48-credit) degree program.
The MDes core curriculum offers preparation for a professional career in historic preservation, through courses on history and theory, as well as technical practices of architectural conservation and sustainability. Typically a two-year program, it offers one-year (plus) tracks for students with significant professional or academic background in the field, and through a dual degree program with Master in Architecture students. The MDes program already includes courses in the history, architecture, and landscape architecture departments.

The three (or four) year dual degree MLA/MDes program would offer its students a rich educational experience in many areas of design and historic preservation, including sustainable site development, heritage landscape interpretation, community engagement, and tools and techniques of landscape management and historic preservation, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The MLA/MDes dual degree program will provide its graduates with comprehensive education for professional careers in landscape design and historic preservation in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Students must apply to, and be admitted to both programs, and must meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements of each program.

This program is based entirely on existing departmental resources. It draws from existing courses, faculty, and administrative assistance already available, and does not require additional funding for implementation.
Current Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Design

Existing 2-year MLA Program (48 Credits)  
(Not including first, preparatory year for students with no previous LA degree)

LANDARCH 601 Studio V Site Planning for Housing 3  
LANDARCH 603 Studio VI Cultural Landscapes 3  
LANDARCH 613 Site Engineering 3  
LANDARCH 604 Studio VII Urban Design 3  
LANDARCH 606 Studio VIII Urban Design II 3  
LANDARCH 635 Research Issues 3  
LANDARCH 607 Studio IX Greenways 3  
LANDARCH 609 Studio X Design Development 3  
LANDARCH 651 Professional Practice 3  
LANDARCH 696 Master’s Project  OR  
LANDARCH 699 Master’s Thesis 9  
ELECTIVES (2-3 required) 6-9

TOTAL CREDITS: 48

Existing Master of Design  
(Sen. Doc. 10-240)

“For the Master of Design degree, students must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours. All students must complete coursework in history, technology, practice or research methods, studios, and electives related to the concentration. All course selections are made on the basis of area specialization and in consultation with the student’s major adviser.

Depending on the concentration and the requirements of the adviser or the advisory committee, students in the Master of Design program may choose between options: 1. Coursework only (non-thesis option) and 2. Coursework with Research Forum and Master’s Thesis (thesis option). Master’s Thesis students work under the guidance of a project adviser who, along with an advisory committee, will approve the plan of study, assist with the project, and form the examination committee. The Master’s Thesis includes both a written document and a project that demonstrates the ability of the student to creatively apply research to a design situation. The final examination is based on coursework and/or project work as determined by the examining committee.”
Proposed Reductions in the Dual Master of Landscape Architecture/Master of Design

Currently both programs together require 48 and 36 credits, respectively for a total of 84 credits.

LandArch 604 and 606 will count for both the MLA and M Des (Reduction of 6 credits)
LandArch 613 will count for both the MLA and MDes (Reduction of 3 credits)
Arch 670 will count as “Research Issues” for both the MLA and MDes (Reduction of 3 credits)
LandArch 696 (master’s project) or 699 (master’s thesis) will count as both the MLA and MDes capstone or thesis (Reduction of 6 credits maximum)

Total reduction=18 credits (15 credits in MDes, 3 credits in MLA)
Students must complete at least 21 credits in the MDes program and 21 credits in the MLA program. The dual degree will therefore require 84 minus18 credits, or 66 credits.
The total reduction is 21%.

Administration of Program

1. Applicants are required to apply to each school individually, and must meet the respective admission requirements for each program. Once admitted to both schools, a student will qualify for the dual degree program. Applicants to both programs are expected to have taken the GRE. In addition, applicants whose native language is not English must take Test of English Language (TOEFL). Students already enrolled in one of the programs can apply to the other prior to their second year in the program.

2. Students will be advised by the Graduate Program Director for the MLA Program, and the Graduate Program Director for M Design Programs, both located in the Design Building.

3. Students will have access to advisors in both programs at all times.

Summary of Changes

1. Students will complete all required credits, or accepted substitutes, of the MLA program. Students will complete all required credits, or accepted substitutes, of the MDes program.

2. Students must complete 21 credits in the MDes program

3. Students will complete a combined MLA/MDes master’s project or master’s thesis.

4. Students matriculated in either program can apply to the dual degree program. Other students must apply to both programs simultaneously.

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Creation of a Dual Master’s: Master’s of Landscape Architecture and Master’s of Design (Historic Preservation), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 19-008.