

## THE FIELD

First and foremost, landscape architects design. Through design, they make spaces that respond to both human activity and the environmental context. The profession has a special commitment to the stewardship of landscapes and seeks to create sustainable patterns of development that mitigate environmental impacts, enrich natural environments, and maximize benefits to individuals and society. Landscape architects work in a number of different capacities within the profession including urban, rural, small scale, large scale, landscape design, landscape planning, construction supervision, or combinations thereof.

*There is no minor available in landscape architecture.*

## THE MAJOR

Landscape architecture students are those who seek integrative, regenerative, community-based, beautiful solutions to serve the aesthetic, economic, and social needs of humans, as well as the ecologic patterns of natural systems.

Our bachelor of science in landscape architecture (BSLA) has an explicit focus on sustainability, with a strong emphasis on design and practice at a range of scales, from residential garden design to greenway planning. A unifying theme of the program is the importance of protecting and enhancing the environment and public welfare while simultaneously engaging the aesthetic challenge of reconciling form, style, and function.

The BSLA program is a professional degree program. The education will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in private or public practice, and will enable students to design beautiful and engaging landscapes that are environmentally sustainable.

Specifically, the landscape architecture program will provide its students:

- An understanding of and appreciation for the design of sustainable landscapes, for pleasure and function;
- A working knowledge of the theories, processes, and techniques applied to the analysis of design problems and the implementation of design solutions in the profession of landscape architecture;
- An understanding of ecology, natural resource use, and conservation and land-use activities;
- An understanding of the cultural determinants of human behavior and the social, political, economic, and legal institutions that influence design decision;
- The capacity to verbally and graphically communicate your ideas to clients, the public, government officials and specialists in allied fields including planners, architects, engineers, and social, natural, and physical scientists.

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 perspectives qualify them to evaluate and create environmental policies; as private practitioners who imaginatively interpret and resolve landscape design problems.

## HONORS

Students may pursue honors opportunities within the major. Contact the honors coordinator for more information.

### **STUDY ABROAD AND INTERNSHIPS**

Opportunities exist in the program for study abroad. In spring semester of the junior year or fall of the senior year, students can go to Copenhagen to study in Denmark's International Study Program or to Rome and study at the Pantheon Institute. Both programs deal with both architecture and urban design, and the cities provide an exciting context for urban studies. Other opportunities for exchange exist in Dublin (Ireland), Florence (Italy), and Christchurch (New Zealand).

Internships help students prepare for employment or graduate study. During the summer following their junior year, our students typically find internships with landscape architecture firms, multi-disciplinary design and planning firms, municipal governments, national park sites, or land conservation organizations. Students are highly encouraged to work closely with their academic advisor to plan an internship experience.

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

The public concern for the natural environment and for high-quality built environments has increased professional employment opportunities in landscape architecture. Graduates are employed in large multi-disciplinary firms, sole-proprietor design offices, design/build companies, and government agencies. The types of work include park and recreation planning and design; regional planning and management projects; resort development and golf course design; urban design (streetscapes, urban development); coastal facilities (development and protection); historic preservation; land reclamation; design-build enterprises; and land trusts and environmental organizations. Each of these developments requires professional expertise in landscape architecture, and the program is designed to meet this tremendous need.

### **COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

The social and behavioral sciences focus on behavior and organization from cultural, social, and biological perspectives, examining people as both social and individual beings. Undergraduates in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences study culture, society, and individual and social interaction processes and learn methods by which knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences is created. Students are guided by the SBS Pathways approach, integrating their academic, experiential, and professional pathways. They anchor their knowledge in at least one discipline, but are encouraged to expand this knowledge through various broadening experiences inside and outside the classroom.

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