

THE FIELD

Landscape contracting is a major component of the green industry, a term covering businesses that grow, market, produce, design, and maintain plants, trees, turf, and landscapes. It is the fastest growing sector of agriculture in New England. Green industries in New England constitute \$4 billion in gross income, with Massachusetts accounting for almost half at \$1.86 billion. Fifty-two thousand people are employed in the industry, with an additional 7,800 positions needing to be filled. With residential and commercial construction on the rise, it is a good time to be entering the field.

THE MAJOR

The associate degree in the landscape contracting program develops a student's ability to design, implement, and maintain landscape projects. In two years, students build professional skills in plant health care, landscape design, design documentation, estimating, landscape assembly installation, and project management while earning an associate degree. The goal of the landscape contracting program is to prepare students to become landscape construction crew leaders, landscape project supervisors and estimators, as well as to hold other managerial positions. Many graduates start their own landscape contracting business after graduating.

The landscape contracting curriculum develops a foundation around three primary areas: landscape design, horticulture, and landscape construction/business. These areas are closely interrelated so that the completion of each semester continues building on the educational foundation laid in previous semesters. The overall goal is to graduate individuals who can address a wide range of landscape-related issues, from identifying pest and disease problems on plants to designing an outdoor living space that responds to client needs, existing conditions, and budget issues.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Landscape contracting graduates are well prepared to work in the growing field of landscape contracting or to continue their education in bachelor's degree programs such as landscape architecture or sustainable community development. Landscape contracting graduates easily find positions in landscape contracting firms, landscape design/build firms, garden centers, and nurseries, all of which are eager to hire trained people who have an interest in the field. The main factor limiting growth in the industry today is a shortage of labor. Careers in various aspects of landscape contracting are many, and presently, graduates have their pick of positions offered from many reputable firms across the country.

INDUSTRY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Landscape associations, such as the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, Association of Landscape Professionals, and the Professional Grounds Management Society, award scholarships to eligible Stockbridge School students each year. In addition, garden clubs and horticultural societies provide scholarships to students who are interested in the study of landscape design and horticulture. Learn more about the industry through professional organizations such as the Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals, Ecological Landscaping Association, and Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association.

RECOMMENDED TWO-YEAR COURSE SEQUENCE:

FIRST SEMESTER

SUSTCOMM 335	Plants in Landscape
STOCKSCH 105	Soils
STOCKSCH 108	Introductory Botany
STOCKSCH 192F	First Year Seminar
LANDARCH 297A	Studio I

SECOND SEMESTER

LANDCONT 104	Planting Design
LANDCONT 196	Independent Study
LANDCONT 198Y	Internship (April–August)
STOCKSCH 111	Introductory Plant Pathology
STOCKSCH 101	Insects & Related Forms

THIRD SEMESTER

MATH	Based on Placement Exam
LANDCONT 107	Land Form
NRC 232	Principles of Arboriculture (or)
STOCKSCH 230	Introductory Turfgrass Management
STOCKSCH 109	Insects of Ornamentals
STOCKSCH 113	Introductory Plant Pathology Lab

FOURTH SEMESTER

ENGLWRIT 111/112	Based on Placement Exam
LANDARCH 294A	Construction Materials
LANDARCH 294B	Construction Materials Practicum
LANDARCH 297D	Studio IV
LANDARCH 297M	Business Concepts of Land Contracting
STOCKSCH 255	Herbaceous Plants

THE STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

The Stockbridge School is unique in that its students have all the advantages of being members of the larger UMass Amherst community and the College of Natural Sciences while keeping the close student-faculty relationships of a small school. Students can be involved in a broad range of activities, including clubs, intramural sports, and residential activities. Stockbridge faculty members teach at both the undergraduate and graduate level, participate in research, and are highly trained professionals. Stockbridge is a small school with big opportunities.

Levi Stockbridge, who was the university's first professor of agriculture and its fifth president, pioneered "Learning by Doing," a concept which combines classroom lectures with practical experiences. We follow his philosophy to this day.

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

The College of Natural Sciences unites the life, environmental, computational, and physical sciences on campus. Students take advantage of a range of inquiry-based classroom and laboratory experiences, hands-on undergraduate research opportunities, multidisciplinary and cross-departmental education and research initiatives, and a variety of science student organizations. In addition, they are encouraged to develop strong written and oral communication skills, as well as leadership and problem-solving abilities.

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