



School of Natural Resources and Environment: Landscape Architecture

The Landscape Architecture concentration educates students to be effective and innovative planners, landscape architects, landscape designers, environmental consultants, or adept in skills needed to facilitate decision-making about complex natural resource and environmental issues. From its early days, the program has focused on the integration of an understanding of ecological principles and human behavior with the design and planning of the land.

The School recognizes the increasing need for landscape architects to be able to work closely with other professional in integrated teams or on a consultation basis, and therefore provides many opportunities for interdisciplinary work. Students benefit from the close association with

the other natural resource disciplines found within the School including resource ecology and management, and policy and behavior.

Faculty and students in the school explore wide-ranging topics of research that currently include: applications of landscape ecology in conservation planning, ecological restoration, vegetation management, landscape history and design theory, historic preservation, zoo design, geographical information systems, and landscape aesthetics responding to the growing demand for thorough scholarship and research to support design decisions. Students come from a wide range of backgrounds and this diversity contributes to their design education in the program.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

The curriculum develops the student's analytical, quantitative, and communication skills in a specialized field of study with a broader understanding of natural resources and the environment. An important component of the training is an increased awareness of how knowledge and skills from several disciplines can be integrated to solve

natural resource and environmental problems. For example, a landscape architect, a habitat restoration specialist, or a park design specialist might use analytical thinking skills on a daily basis, although for different purposes. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

Problem Solving

- Thinking creatively
- Interdisciplinary & causal analysis
- Defining problems
- Relating theory to practice
- Assessing needs
- Understanding prejudice & discrimination
- Conflict management

Field/Technical

- Drawing
- Using technologies
- Working in a variety of media
- Plant identification
- Visualizing shapes & relationships
- Giving abstract ideas visual form
- Graphic design

Communication

- Speaking & writing effectively
- Preparing a portfolio
- Collaborating with others
- Presenting & displaying work
- Communicating visually

Management

- Evaluating policies
- Understanding economic & legal issues
- Developing appropriate business skills
- Group leadership

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The School's graduates are able to use the skills and abilities acquired through the concentration as building blocks toward any number of occupations and career paths. Students have the opportunity to study: Landscape Architecture History, Plant Materials for Landscape, Visual Communications, Landscape Architecture Design Theory, Site Engineering, and Landscape Architecture and Design.

The selected list of occupations, based on surveys of University of Michigan graduates, is organized to correspond with the employment sectors where our students have obtained employment. Most occupations chosen by students require a certification in landscape architecture for which the master's degree is preferred and may be required; those have been marked with a • on the following list.

Government

- Park Design Specialist
- City Planner
- Coordinating Planner
- Land Use Planning Chief
- Environmental Specialist
- Director of Planning Standards Division

Private Sector

- Landscape Architect
- Planner
- Landscape Designer
- Landscape Company President
- Interior Plantscaping Designer

Non-profit

- Habitat restoration specialist
- Landscape Architect
- Land preservation specialist
- Research Assistant
- Land Use Planner

Academic/Research

- Lecturer
- Landscape Architect
- Professor
- Associate Dean
- Landscape Designer

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environment requires a minimum of 120 credit hours including at least 50 credits from the School of Natural Resources and Environment and provides an ideal background for the professional degree in landscape architecture at the graduate level. The Master of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environment requires a minimum

of 36 credit hours including at least 19 credits from the School of Natural Resources and Environment. These credit hours do not include the required prerequisite courses. For the master of landscape architecture degree course work includes analytical skills, ecology, a required core, and a capstone thesis, project or practicum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about choosing a career, graduate or professional school, internships or job descriptions; and for library resources contact:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1316
734/764-7460

<http://careercenter.umich.edu/>

For information about the concentration and degree requirements contact:

School of Natural Resources and Environment
1520 Dana Building
440 Church Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1041
734/764-6453

<http://www.snre.umich.edu/>