

# BLA HANDBOOK 2020-2021



Bachelor of Landscape Architecture  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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*Cover image: Jackie Lopez – LA 438 – Design Workshop*

## Land Acknowledgement

We recognize and acknowledge that the University of Illinois is located on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands were the traditional territory of these Native Nations prior to their forced removal; these lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for more than 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

## The University

Since its founding in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has earned an international reputation for its distinguished faculty, outstanding resources and academic programs, and broad research capabilities. Graduate study is offered in more than 150 disciplines, and enrollment includes over 13,000 graduate and professional students from every state in the United States and from over 110 countries. Academic resources are among the finest in the world. Along with those of Library of Congress and Harvard University, the University Library ranks among the largest public and academic collections in the nation. Its computerized catalog provides easy access to more than 24 million other items and materials in all formats, languages, and subjects, housed in the Main Library and departmental libraries campus-wide.

## The Department

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was among the first institutions in the nation to offer an educational program in landscape architecture, with a degree program in place by 1907. Today, the Department of Landscape Architecture sponsors one of the leading graduate-level academic, research-based design programs in the country. The first professional MLA degree program is fully accredited. An accredited BLA program and a PhD program are also offered. All 3 programs are STEM designated. The Department has trained some of the best-known practitioners in the United States and world, and its students have also gone on to teach in and direct professional programs at many other universities.

The faculty of the Department is distinguished internationally for wide-ranging scholarly, professional, and creative expertise including community and urban design; ecological and sustainable design; architectural and landscape history and methods; cultural heritage; social and environmental justice, and public health. Affiliated faculty members represent numerous University units. Students may also pursue a joint MLA/MUP program.

Faculty members in the Department of Landscape Architecture devote varying portions of their time to teaching, research, and service at the undergraduate and graduate levels. They bring to the Department a rich range of academic, professional, and personal experiences in regions across the United States and abroad. In addition to the permanent faculty, the Department invites prominent scholars and practitioners to participate in the academic programs as lecturers, critics, and visiting instructors for periods ranging from a day to an entire semester.

Opportunities for independent and interdisciplinary study with individual faculty members are available in many areas. Such diverse academic pursuits contribute to a dynamic educational environment and complement the diversity of the students themselves, who come from a variety of academic backgrounds.

Additional information may be found at our departmental website.

## Advising for New and Continuing Students

The Department of Landscape Architecture is committed to supporting you in the academic, professional, and personal journey you are about to take. We seek to create an environment where you will feel comfortable interacting with the faculty, the Department Head (Professor David Hays), the Academic Affairs Coordinator (Lori Davis) and the Office Manager (Marti Gortner) and that you experience the Department as a welcoming academic home. We are here to support your development, progress, and success. See the [Advising Website](#) for more information. You will also find a button that will take you to the [online appointment calendar](#).

## Computers

Students in the BLA program are required to have a laptop capable of running design software used in our degree programs. Students cannot expect to rely exclusively on university-provided workstations, and must have a laptop for in-class tutorials and workshops. Students may choose between a windows or mac system, but should be similar to the systems listed below. Students with questions about a specific system should contact the main office or a faculty member for advice. While some software is provided, students should also expect to purchase an Adobe Suite subscription (\$20/month) and a copy of Rhinoceros 3D (\$199 one time purchase). The College of Fine and Applied Arts uses PC's and while Mac operating systems generally work as well, there may occasionally be extra steps to using a Mac computer (e.g., adapters to projectors; etc.).

### **PC: (approx. \$2,400)**

Dell Precision Mobile Workstation  
Intel Core i7-8850H (Six Core 2.60GHz, 4.30GHz Turbo, 9MB 45W)  
16 GB Memory (minimum)  
32 GB Memory (recommended)  
Nvidia Quadro P3200 w/6GB GDDR5

### **Mac: (approx. \$2,800)**

MacBook Pro 16"  
2.6GHz 6 core 9th generation Intel Core i7 processor, Turbo Boost up to 4.5GHz (minimum)  
2.4GHz 8 core 9th generation Intel Core i9 processor, Turbo Boost up to 5.0GHz (recommended)  
16 GB Memory (minimum)  
32 GB Memory (recommended)  
AMD Radeon Pro 5300M with 4GB of GDDR6 memory (minimum)  
AMD Radeon Pro 5500M with 8GB of GDDR6 memory (highly recommended)

## Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) Curriculum

The four + year program in Landscape Architecture requires 124 semester hours, leading to an accredited, professional degree - Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. Of the 124 hours, the majority of credit hours are in required landscape architecture courses, consisting of design studio, construction, plant materials and design,

history, design communication, and professional internship. The remaining hours are completed in the following subjects:

- Urban and Regional Planning (3 hours)
- Natural Sciences: Plant Biology and Geography (6 hours)
- Mathematics (depending on placement) (0-5 hours)
- English (Composition I and Advanced Composition) 7 hours
- Horticulture (4 hours)
- [General Education Electives](#)
  - Natural Sciences and Technology (6 hours)
  - Humanities and the Arts (6 hours; 3 of these hours met by LA 314)
  - Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)
  - Quantitative Reasoning I & II (6 hours)
  - Cultural Studies: Non-Western (3 hours)
  - Cultural Studies: Western (3 hours)
  - Foreign Language
- Supporting Electives - 12 hours
  - Communication (minimum 3 hours)
  - History (minimum 3 hours)
  - Technical (minimum 3 hours)
  - Environment (minimum 3 hours)

The first year of the core major courses is structured to enable students to acquire the basic knowledge in graphics, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and mathematics.

Professional sequences in design, construction, and plants begin in the second year. Significant to the program is the use of a clearly defined "systematic approach" to the solution of landscape architectural problems, with emphasis on the basic principles of design, design process, and site planning skills. In addition, methods of landscape survey and analysis further supply the student with a logical basis for design decisions.

The third year is structured to take advantage of this strong foundation. Courses in construction, plant materials, and large-scale design appear in the professional sequence. Following the third year, students complete a one-year professional internship or combination of internship and study abroad, to further advance their knowledge of built landscapes and the practice of landscape architecture. Upon return to campus for the final year of coursework, techniques are refined and principles are tested in a series of comprehensive application courses. Emphasis is placed on the creative solution of land use problems at all scales.

## Academic Standing

BLA students are expected to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale). Failure to do so will result in academic probation. Such students have the next semester (fall or spring) to improve their GPA's. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, students are not permitted to be on academic probation a second semester. A minimum 3.0 GPA is typically required to study abroad.

## Bulletin Board

Information of interest to is posted on the bulletin board in the hall of the third floor of Buell Hall.

## Media Equipment

Media equipment is available for use in conjunction with department course work. Any student borrowing equipment is responsible for its proper use and care, including the repair or replacement of items that may be damaged or lost during the time of the loan. Equipment is issued by the Department Office Manager in Room 101 Buell Hall.

## University Libraries

The [City Planning & Landscape Architecture Collection](#) and the [City Planning & Landscape Architecture Virtual Library](#) are located within the Funk (ACES) Library. The [Main Library](#), the largest state university library in the country, is located one block from Buell Hall.

## Policy Determination

Every year, enrolled students in the BLA, MLA, and PhD programs elect one or more representatives responsible for attending Department meetings and for reporting and disseminating information to the student body. There is also student representation on other important committees such as the Student Advisory Committee and Search Committees. Please refer to the department By-Laws for a more complete explanation of these committees.

## Grievances

Various forms of appeal are available to individual students who feel that they have received unfair treatment in academic or administrative dealings with the department. Alleged capricious grading issues are addressed internally. Students are strongly encouraged to use all appropriate avenues for informal resolution for other grievances, such as alleged inappropriate application of policy or being improperly terminated from a University appointment. If a student is unable to resolve such an issue, he/she may elect to file a formal grievance.

Consult the [Student Code](#) for more information on grievance policies and procedures:

<http://www.admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/>

## Faculty

Reflecting the increasing breadth and complexity of the profession itself, the faculty includes design professionals as well as scholars and practitioners in related fields, such as ecology, social and educational psychology, history, and geography. Opportunities for independent and interdisciplinary study are available in many areas. Such diverse academic pursuits contribute to a dynamic educational environment and complement the diversity of the students themselves, who come from a variety of academic backgrounds.

Faculty members in the Department of Landscape Architecture devote varying portions of their time to teaching, research, and service at the undergraduate and graduate levels. They bring to the Department a rich range of

academic, professional, and personal experiences in regions across the United States and abroad. In addition to the permanent faculty, the Department invites prominent scholars and practitioners to participate in the academic programs as lecturers, critics, and visiting instructors for periods ranging from one day to an entire semester.

### Faculty Contact Information

Individual faculty information can be found on the [Department website](#).

All faculty members may be reached by mail at:

Department of Landscape Architecture  
101 Temple Buell Hall  
611 East Taft Drive  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

or by phone at (217) 333-0176 or email at [ladept@illinois.edu](mailto:ladept@illinois.edu)

# BLA CURRICULUM | 4-year + program |

College of Fine & Applied Arts | Department of Landscape Architecture - | University of Illinois

FALL SEMESTER		SPRING SEMESTER	
<b>First Year</b>			
UP 101	3	Social/Cultural Factors Design Elective	3
GEOG 103 or GEOL 100	3	IB 103 or IB 105	3
FAA 101	1	General Education Quant II	3
Rhetoric 105 or General Education or Foreign Language	4	General Education Humanities or RHET 105	3-4
Math 115 or MATH 220 (QUANT 1)	3	General Education Social/Behavioral	3
	<b>14</b>		<b>15 -16</b>
<b>Second Year</b>			
LA 233 Foundation Design Studio	5	LA 234 Site Design Studio	5
LA 241 Landform Design & Construction	3	LA 250 Environmental Site Analysis	3
LA 280 Design Communications I	3	LA 281 Design Communications II	3
LA 101	2	LA 101 Introduction to Landscape Architecture	2
General Education	3	LA 314 History of World Landscapes	4
	<b>16</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Third Year</b>			
LA 335 Community & Open Space Studio	5	LA 336 Design Workshop Studio I	5
LA 342 Site Engineering	4	LA 343 Landscape Construction	4
HORT 301 Woody Ornamentals I	4	Supporting Elective Communications	3
LA 346 Professional Practice	2	Supporting Elective History	3
	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Summer</b>			
LA 345 Professional Internship	<b>5</b>		
<b>Fourth Year</b>			
LA 437 Regional Design Studio	5	LA 438 Design Workshop Studio II	5
LA 452 Natural Precedent in Planting	3	Supporting Elective Environment	3
General Education Social/Behavioral	3	General Education Cult Non-Western	3
Supporting Electives Techniques	3	Elective	3
	<b>14</b>		<b>14</b>

① minimum 124 credit hours required

① IB 102, 103 or 105, or UP 205 *and* GEOG 103, GEOL 100 and 103 fulfill General Education Natural Science and Technology requirements.

① Social/Cultural Factors Elective course options are LA 212, LA 215, LA 218, LA 220, LA 222, LA 242, LA 270, or LA 470.

① LA 218, 220, and 222 fulfill the department's Social/Cultural Factors in Design requirement and Cultural Studies Non-Western.

① LA 314 fulfills Advanced Composition, Humanities, and Cultural Studies Western requirements.

## Helpful Course Information

[Descriptions of Landscape Architecture Courses](#)

[General Education Courses](#)

## Supporting Electives

In addition to general education course requirements, a student in landscape architecture must complete a minimum of 12 hours of professional supporting electives, with a minimum of at least three hours selected from each of four categories: communications; history; technique; environment. A student may petition to have another course not appearing on list accepted for credit if it meets the stated objective. The list of supporting electives can be found on the [LA advising page](#).

## Awards

**ASLA National Awards** are presented to students in accredited programs each year. Undergraduate students interested in competing post their work in January. The faculty selects nominees to present to the ASLA Undergraduate Awards Jury. The students nominated present samples of their work to the jury in February. Nominees must be in their final year of study, be outstanding as measured by our program's standards of excellence, and must have demonstrated the highest level of academic scholarship and accomplishments in skills related to the art and technology of landscape architecture.

**The Natalie B. Alpert Prize in Landscape Architecture** is an annual award of up to \$1,000 in recognition of Natalie Alpert's long and distinguished career in landscape architecture, including her tenure as a faculty member in the Department. The prize is awarded to the best history/theory paper and/or landscape design.

**The George and Dorothy Fiel Fellowship** in Landscape Architecture promotes excellence in landscape architecture through travel and study of historical and contemporary works of landscape architecture in the United States. A fellowship of \$5,000 is awarded annually to one (or more) student in the BLA, M.L.A., and/or Ph.D. program. A student must be within two years of completing all work for the degree program in which s/he is enrolled, or have received a degree within one calendar year preceding the application deadline. Undergraduate applicants must have an all-university GPA of not less than 2.75; graduate students must have a 3.40. The faculty reviews all proposals. Winners are selected on the basis of academic record, promise for leadership and the quality of the proposal.

**The Edward L. Ryerson Traveling Fellowship** promotes excellence in landscape architecture through travel and study outside of the United States. A fellowship of \$6,000 is awarded annually to one (or more) student in the BLA or M.L.A. program. A student may apply if he/she is within one semester of completing all work for the degree, or has received a degree from the Department within one year preceding the application deadline. Undergraduate applicants must have an all-university GPA of not less than 2.75; graduate students must have a 3.40. The faculty reviews all proposals. Winners are selected on the basis of academic record, promise for leadership and the quality of the proposal.

**The Pauline Tilton Kennedy Prize** provides a variable sum, not to exceed \$1,000, for study-related travel.

**The Bruce Borland Golf Course Design Scholarship** is for a student entering his/her third year of design who has a passion for golf and golf course design, financial need, and a high GPA. Selection is based on an essay submitted by the student; the amount is credited to the student's university account.

**The Mr. and Mrs. Brenton Wadsworth Business Internship Scholarship** is awarded annually to students who have successfully completed LA 345 – Professional Internship. Emphasis is placed on the evaluation of the intern’s supervisor.

**The Dan Ryan Prize** was established in memory of Dan Ryan, a member of the Class of 2002. It is given to a student enrolled in LA 281 and LA 234 who exhibits outstanding graphic skills and a willingness to help others.

**The Gary Kesler Prize** recognizes the best student in LA 342 – Site Engineering.

[University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Non-Discrimination Statement](#)

[§ 1-110 Policy for the Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)