

Graduation Requirements Master of Landscape Architecture

In addition to the requirements of the Graduate School of New Brunswick, Students of the accredited first professional degree (MLA 1) have to prove professional competence and engage original scholarly work, while students of the post-professional degree (MLA 2) are expected to show leadership of their individual scholarly work from day one.

Professional competence MLA 1

Design Competence

- 16:550:531 Studio One (Fundamentals), 5 cr.
- 16:550:532 Studio Two (Urban/Suburban Design), 5 cr.
- 16:550:535 Studio—Housing and Open Space, 5 cr.
- 16:550:536 Studio—Special Topics, 5 cr.

Visualization Competence

- 16:550:541 Representation I—Drawing, 2 cr.
- 11:550:337 Visualization II - Digital Design/Present., 3 cr.

Environmental Planning Competence

- 16:550:545 Introduction to Geomatics, 3 cr.
- 16:550:533 Studio—Ecological Land Arch Design, 5 cr.

Construction Competence

- 11:550:341 Construction II - Materials/Engineering, 4 cr.
- 11:550:441 Construction III - Implementation/Practice, 4 cr.
- 11:550:435 Professional Practice, 1 cr.

Plants/Ecology Competence

- 11:550:233 Landscape Plants, 3 cr.
- 16:550:548 Landscape Plants II—ID & Design, 2 cr.

History/Theory Competence

- 16:550:552 Landscape History II—1850-Present, 3. Cr.

16:550:553 Theories of Landscape Architecture, 3 cr.

16:550:582 Research Methods, 2 cr.

16:550:572 Colloquium Landscape Architecture

Coursework focused on individual scholarly interest

Electives, 9 cr.

16:550:701 Thesis Research fall semester, 3 cr.

16:550:702 Thesis Research spring semester, 3 cr.

Design research focus MLA 2

The 30 credit program is tailored for professionals interested in developing skills and knowledge on a specific topic or exploring advancements in the practice of Landscape Architecture.

The MLA 2 takes advantage of Rutgers' vast academic resources, however, each student is required to develop an interdisciplinary course of study that must be approved by the program director.

Required Courses:

Research Methods 2 credits, Thesis Research 6 credits.

Expertise Courses: 22 credits in graduate level courses

Master Thesis MLA1 and MLA2

For both degrees offered, the professional MLA 1 and the post professional MLA2, students are required to conduct original scholarly work resulting in a rigorous master's thesis which can have a focus on creative design or scholarly research.

Rigorous Design in Landscape Architecture

Provides evidence of the iterative design process illustrating the deeper understanding of site specific problems as well as larger questions of the field. It is a thorough exploration of form and space as a response to site inventory and analysis while applying technical skills acquired and expressing the student's own creative voice. The steady production of sketches, diagrams and models is part of a consistent work ethic allowing the student to create knowledge through design that advances the state of the art in landscape Architecture.

Rigorous Research in Landscape Architecture

Brings design into the research, starts to investigate the visual and spatial implementations using graphic expression. It is theoretically informed and empirically grounded, drawing on knowledge of pertinent literature, while developing a focus leading to appropriate research questions. Daily writing is one important aspect of a consistent work ethic which will help the student to advance knowledge in the field.

Master Thesis Requirements

The faculty feels strongly that graduate students shall be given utmost flexibility to conduct their individual scholarly endeavors while ensuring academic rigor. Therefore students can select between two alternatives:

- Option 1 is an individual thesis. The topic will be developed in the class 16:550:582 Research Methods. Outcome of that class is a research proposal which is already applying the formatting requirements of the graduate school. It is the responsibility of the student to select a committee of three faculty, two of them must be members of the Landscape Architecture Graduate Faculty, the third can be chosen freely according to the topic. The thesis can be design or research focused while following the RU thesis guidelines and submission dates. (Meaning that a drawings developed in real scale must be reduced to letter size for the formal submission) Students will sign up for 550:701 (fall, 3cr.) and 550:702 (spring, 3cr.) Research in Landscape Architecture. Or 550:702 in the spring, 6 cr.
- Option 2 is a final capstone studio (550:538, 5 cr.) with independent component for each student. Currently students choosing this alternative will select of the praxis studio options offered by the department for the spring semester. In addition to completing the studio work they will be required to submit an individual component.

All students are required to present and discuss at a department examination and a second presentation to which public is invited.