

Masters in Landscape Architecture at Rutgers University

The Masters in Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.) program includes both the M.L.A. 1 (First Professional Degree Option) and the MLA 2 (Post Professional Degree Option). The M.L.A. is considered the terminal, professional degree in our discipline.

The M.L.A. 1 option serves those students who have previously earned a non-professional bachelors degree and who wish to practice landscape architecture (or closely allied disciplines such as urban design). In this program, students come from a broad array of backgrounds, ages and life experiences into a studio-centered pedagogical form that addresses real environmental design and planning problems. This diversity enables bringing multiple perspectives to bear on issues such as housing and open space, urban and suburban development, industrial redevelopment, parks and recreation, land use planning, gardens and more. In addition, because such students lack prior professional training, the M.L.A. 1 option provides them with coursework in the following areas:

- a) landscape architectural history and theory
- b) landscape design fundamentals
- c) natural and cultural systems
- d) design theories, methodologies and applications
- e) landscape planning and management at various scales
- f) site design and construction
- g) communication in written, verbal and visual applications
- h) plants and ecosystems at various scales and situations
- i) construction materials and methods
- j) earthwork and grading
- k) professional practice modes, values, and ethics
- l) computing applications and other advanced technology

Beyond these, students in this option are introduced to research and/or scholarly methods and their relation to the profession of landscape architecture. They have the opportunity for independent work in a scholarly area related to faculty expertise, with emphasis on the particular challenges of New Jersey, including brownfields remediation, historic landscape preservation, stormwater mitigation, land use planning, urban design and sustainable and regenerative design for housing and open space.

The M.L.A. 2 option serves those students who have previously earned an accredited professional degree in the discipline and who wish to develop advanced technical expertise and critical perspectives on the profession. Because such students have a professional degree and, often, professional experience, the M.L.A. 2's objectives are focused on scholarly work associated with faculty interests and the needs of the state, as indicated above. To produce new knowledge that may be applied to the resolution of these land use problems and to contribute directly to their resolution through creative works and outreach are the objectives of faculty and advanced students working in this option.

Curriculum:

M.L.A. 1 Coursework

Year 1

Fall

Studio—Fundamentals
(16:550:531) (5 credits)
Representation I—Drawing
(11:550:237) (3 credits)
Landscape History I—Antiquity-
1850 (11:550:330) (3 credits)
Theories of Landscape
Architecture (16:550:553)
(3 credits)*

Spring

Studio—Housing and Open
Space (16:550:532) (5 credits)*
Representation II—Digital Media
(11:550:337) (3 credits)
Landscape History II—1850-
Present (16:550:552) (3 credits)
Landscape Plants I—ID &
Design (11:550:233) (3 credits)

Year 2

Fall

Studio—Ecological Design
(16:550:533) (5 credits)*
Introduction to Geomatics
(11:372:232) (3 credits)
Landscape Tech I—Construction
(11:550:342) (3 credits)

Spring

Studio—Regional Design
(16:550:534) (5 credits)*
Landscape Tech II—Site
Engineering (11:550:341)
(4 credits)
Research Methods
(16:550:582) (2 credits)*
Distributional Elective (3 credits)

Year 3

Fall

Studio—Urban/Suburban Design
(16:550:535) (5 credits)
Elements of Professional Practice
(16:550:547) (2 credits)*
Land Planning Theories &
Methods
(16:550:555) (3 credits)*

Spring

Studio—Special Topics (or Thesis)
(16:550:536) (5 credits)*
Colloquium in Landscape
Architecture
(16:550:572) (3 credits)*
Distributional Elective
(3 credits)

Distributional Electives to be selected from a list of approved courses in these categories:

---History or Representation of the Landscape

---Natural Systems

---Social Systems

---Art

*pending final graduate school approval

M.L.A. 1 Total number of credits – 74

M.L.A. 2 Coursework

Year 1

Fall

Studio—Special Topics
(16:550:536) (5 credits)
Theories of Landscape
Architecture
(16:550:553)
(3 credits)
Topical Elective (4 credits)

Spring

Studio—Special Topics
(16:550:536) (5 credits)
Research Methods
(16:550:582) (3 credits)
Topical Elective (4 credits)

Year 2

Fall

Studio—Special Topics
(16:550:536) (5 credits)
Land Planning Theories &
Practice (16:550:555)
(3 credits)
Topical Elective (4 credits)

Spring

Thesis or Masters Project
(16:550:536) (5 credits)
Colloquium in Landscape
Architecture
(16:550:572) (3 credits)
Topical Elective (4 credits)

Topical Electives are to be structured to provide the student with sufficient background to conduct independent research. MLA 2 courses pending final graduate school approval.

M.L.A. 2 - Total Number of Credits- 48

How to Apply

Applying to the Graduate Landscape Architecture program at Rutgers, requires the completion of two steps:

- Filling out an online application for the Graduate School at Rutgers.
- Submitting a portfolio for review by the Graduate Landscape Architecture Faculty.

Online application

For instructions on how to fill out an online application to the Graduate School at Rutgers, please visit:

<http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/apply2.shtml#general>

Portfolio Submission

Prospective graduate students are required to submit a portfolio containing samples of original work. Recognizing many MLA 1 students may not have any art or design background, we challenge you to use this opportunity to organize a small collection of work of any kind that you believe evidences your creativity. You will not be judged on art or design technical standards. This portfolio must include a work description sheet which lists:

- Title and corresponding page number for work
- Dimensions of the original work (if applicable)
- Date completed
- Media used

Please note: If you would like your portfolio returned, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with correct amount of postage along with your portfolio.

Contact

For additional information about the Graduate Landscape Architecture program, please contact:

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