

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027



Landscape Architecture Program
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Welcome to Clemson University

The Landscape Architecture Program is part of the Richard A. McMahan School of Architecture (RAMSoA) within the College of Architecture, Art and Construction (CAAC) at Clemson University. The program is housed in the Lee Hall Complex, with its primary administrative offices and studio spaces located in Lee Hall III.

Completed in 2012, Lee Hall III is a 55,000-square-foot addition to the Lee Hall Complex. The building is highly energy-efficient and designed to be zero-energy ready, incorporating geothermal heating and cooling, natural ventilation, 53 interior and exterior skylights, and a 30,000-square-foot green roof. Lee Hall III is certified LEED Gold.

Lee Hall III provides dedicated studio spaces for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and administrative offices, seminar rooms, and shared presentation areas. A large open gathering space, known as “The Wedge,” serves as a venue for special events, including award ceremonies, lectures, exhibitions, and social gatherings. Lee Hall III is shared with other programs within the School of Architecture, the Department of Art, and the Nieri Department of Construction and Real Estate Development.

The building consists of two levels, with studio spaces located on both the ground and first floors. Faculty and staff offices are primarily located on the first floor. The Landscape Architecture Program administrative office, which houses the Administrative and Student Services Coordinator, is also located on the first floor. This office is situated adjacent to other School of Architecture and CAAC administrative offices and near the main entrance to Lee Hall III. Its location provides a convenient and accessible point of contact for students, faculty, and visitors.

Most Landscape Architecture faculty offices are located on the first floor of Lee Hall III, while several faculty members occupy offices in Lee Hall I and Lee Hall II. Faculty offices and studio spaces are intentionally interspersed with those of the School of Architecture, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, collegiality, and a strong sense of community among students and faculty.

The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) Handbook is intended to familiarize students with the program’s requirements, policies, and procedures. It provides an overview of the program, admissions and degree requirements, academic expectations, and standards of performance. All MLA students are expected to be familiar with the contents of this handbook, as well as the policies and procedures outlined in the Clemson University Graduate School Policies and Procedures Handbook, available on the Graduate School website at

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/academics/policies-and-procedures.html>.

Important Contacts & Links

Campus Police

Report Security Issues to Campus Police immediately

Report plumbing/flooding or similar problems after hours to campus police

Campus police, local call: 656-2222

Campus police, from university phone: 2222

Campus police, from mobile phone: 864-656-2222 (Save this number in your phone)

Police, Fire, other emergencies: dial 911

Download **Rave Guardian App** on your phone and be always connected with Clemson University Police for faster access and notifications in the case of any security related issues.

Emergency Alerts

See <https://www.clemson.edu/cusafety/operations/warnings.html> to enroll in CU Safe Alerts

OR <http://alerts.clemson.edu/signup-for-text-alerts/>

Hospital Emergency Rooms

See <https://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/student-health/emergency.html>

Lee Hall Building Problems

During the day, contact Melissa Hoffman or Michelle Marchesse (marches@clemson.edu)

After hours, call Campus Police at 656-2222

The University

A-Z University Index

<https://www.clemson.edu/site-index/>

Academic Calendar

http://www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/Acad_Cal.htm

IROAR

<https://iroar.clemson.edu/>

Student Handbook

<http://www.clemson.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/index.html>

University Policies

<http://www.clemson.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/universitypolicies/>

Michelin Career Center

https://career.sites.clemson.edu/michelin_career_center/

The Graduate School

Graduate School Handbook

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/academics/policies-and-procedures.html>

Graduate School

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/>

Graduate School Policies

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policies-procedures/index.html>

Graduate Catalog

http://www.registrar.clemson.edu/publicat/catalog/2016_GC/2016_GC.html

Graduate School Staff and Administration

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/contact/directory.html>

Current Students

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/index.html>

International Students Services

<https://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/international/index.html>

Important Graduate School Forms

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/forms.html>

GS2 Plan of Study

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/plan-of-study/index.html>

Graduation

<https://www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/graduation.htm>

Graduation Deadlines

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/deadlines.html>

Architecture

<https://www.clemson.edu/caac/academics/architecture/index.html>

Landscape Architecture

<https://www.clemson.edu/caac/academics/architecture/programs/landscape-architecture/masters-landscape-architecture.html>

Program Administrators

Director of Landscape Architecture and Graduate Program

Dr. Hala Nassar
hnassar@clemson.edu
3-114 Lee Hall
864.656.2499

Director of Undergraduate Program

Lara Browning
lara2@clemson.edu
3-116 Lee Hall
864-656-3926

Student Services/Registration Coordinator & Administrative Coordinator I

Michelle Marchesse
marches@clemson.edu
3-112 Lee Hall
864.656.3926

Professional MLA Overview

Program Overview

The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is a nationally recognized, STEM-designated professional degree accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). The MLA program at Clemson University prepares students with the knowledge, skills, techniques, theories, and technologies necessary to become effective contributors to the landscape architecture profession.

As the only accredited landscape architecture program in South Carolina and one of the leading programs in the nation, Clemson's MLA program offers a balanced education that integrates professional practice, theoretical inquiry, historical understanding, and research. This combination prepares graduates to enter professional practice immediately upon graduation while providing a strong foundation for diverse career paths. As a Carnegie R1 research institution, Clemson University offers students opportunities to engage in research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and experiential learning that enrich their professional education.

The program is led by an internationally recognized and award-winning faculty with expertise in urban and community design, health and well-being, ecological systems, environmental sustainability, resilience, and design implementation. Throughout the curriculum, students engage in design and research projects at local, regional, and global scales, addressing contemporary challenges such as climate change, sustainability, social and environmental justice, public health, and resilient communities.

First Professional MLA

The First Professional Master of Landscape Architecture is a three-year degree designed for students who hold undergraduate degrees in a variety of disciplines. The program provides a comprehensive professional education while offering opportunities for research, service-learning, and in-depth project work. Because students enter the program with diverse academic backgrounds, the curriculum includes foundational coursework that develops the fundamental knowledge and skills required for professional landscape architecture practice and accreditation.

The Admissions Committee determines whether incoming students are required to begin the program with a rigorous summer session that provides an intensive introduction to the profession and discipline of landscape architecture. During the first year, students focus on foundational and proficiency coursework while beginning graduate-level study in design, history, theory, ecology, and representation.

As students progress through the curriculum, they engage in increasingly complex graduate-level design studios, research initiatives, community-based projects, and service-learning experiences. The program culminates in a Terminal Project completed during the student's final semester. Opportunities for international study, study abroad, Fluid Campus experiences, and summer off-campus learning are available to all graduate students.

Students in the First Professional MLA program are required to complete 72 credit hours of graduate-level landscape architecture coursework and a minimum of 9 credit hours of approved graduate electives, for a total of 81 credit hours.

First Professional Advanced Placement MLA

Advanced Placement admission is available to students who hold a professional degree in architecture or another closely related design discipline. Advanced placement recognizes previous academic preparation and may reduce the number of required credits needed to complete the MLA degree.

The number of advanced placement credits awarded is determined by the Admissions Committee and the Graduate Program Director based on official transcripts, prior coursework, portfolio quality, and the relevance of previous academic and professional experiences. Transfer credit policies and procedures are governed by Clemson University Graduate School regulations and are outlined in the Graduate School Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Second Professional MLA

The Second Professional Master of Landscape Architecture is a two-year degree program intended for students who already hold an accredited Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree or an equivalent accredited professional degree in landscape architecture.

Students pursuing the Second Professional MLA complete a minimum of 42 credit hours or an approved program of advanced study as determined by the Admissions Committee and Graduate Program Director. Building upon prior professional education, the curriculum emphasizes advanced design inquiry, research, critical thinking, and specialized areas of study.

Like the First Professional MLA, the Second Professional MLA culminates in a Terminal Project completed during the student's final semester. This capstone experience allows students to demonstrate advanced scholarship, design excellence, and professional competency through independent research and design investigation.

MLA Admission Requirements

Graduate School Admission Minimum Requirements

The requirements to be considered for admission to Clemson University Graduate School to study in the Professional Landscape Architecture program follow those of the Graduate School. See the Graduate School Announcements at www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/catalogGrad.html

Minimum requirements include:

- A four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a scholastic rating that is satisfactory to Clemson University.
- High quality of previous academic record (GPA 3.0)
- Academic transcripts
- Satisfactory scores on the general portion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or another applicable test as appropriate

Master of Landscape Architecture Program Requirements

Admission to the Landscape Architecture program (first and second professional degrees) is restricted to applicants whose academic record indicates a high potential to be successful in graduate school and are a good fit for a professional design degree. Admission is determined by the Landscape Architecture Graduate Admissions Committee and affirmed by the Graduate School. In addition to the Graduate School admissions requirements, the Landscape Architecture program requires:

- a portfolio of creative and academic work,
- a statement of interest,
- three letters of recommendation
- International students need to have a minimum Tofel score of 80 or equivalent 6.5 in IELTS

Prospective students may request information about the program via email, a visit to campus, zoom meeting or phone call with the director of the Graduate Program.

Admission deadline

The Landscape Architecture Program accepts and reviews graduate applications on a rolling basis throughout the year. The Clemson University Graduate School application portal opens annually on August 1. Applicants offered admission are generally expected to accept their offer by April 15. Landscape Architecture Fellowship awards are also typically announced by April 15. In certain circumstances, admission and funding offers may be extended earlier or later based on program needs and individual applicant considerations.

The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program admits students for fall enrollment only. Students pursuing the First Professional MLA degree begin the program during Summer Minimester D, which serves as an intensive introduction to the discipline and profession of landscape architecture. Students admitted to the Advanced Placement MLA and Second Professional MLA programs begin their studies in the fall semester. The program does not offer spring admissions.

First Professional MLA Degree Program

To qualify for admission to the three-year First Professional degree students must meet the criteria above and hold a bachelor's degree in any discipline from an accredited college or university. Students from non-design academic backgrounds are advised to apply for the First Professional Degree track.

First Professional MLA_ Advanced Placement Degree Program

To qualify for admission as a First Professional with Advanced Placement degree students must hold a bachelor's degree in architecture or an equivalent accredited design professional degree in peer discipline. The number of advanced placed hours a student can receive is determined by the admissions committee and program director and is based on official transcripts from the previously awarded degrees as well as quality of design work presented in the students' portfolio.

Second Professional MLA Degree Program

To be eligible for admission to the Second Professional Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program, applicants must hold a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree from an accredited landscape architecture program or an equivalent accredited professional degree in landscape architecture. Admission decisions are based on the same application requirements and review criteria used for the First Professional MLA program, including academic achievement, portfolio quality, letters of recommendation, and other supporting materials.

English language proficiency

International applicants whose native language is not English are required to demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting a minimum score of 80 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) or 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Applicants who do not meet these minimum requirements may be considered for provisional admission to Clemson University and may be required to complete English language coursework during their first year of study. Alternatively, students may satisfy English language requirements by successfully completing approved English as a Second Language (ESL) coursework through one of Clemson University's affiliated ESL programs.

International students who wish to serve as Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) must demonstrate spoken English proficiency by passing Clemson University's English Proficiency Examination. Administered by the Department of English, the examination is similar in format to the Test of Spoken English (TSE) formerly administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS).

The English Proficiency Examination is offered at the beginning of each fall and spring semester and once during the summer term. Students may take the examination whenever it is offered. Upon successfully passing the examination, students become eligible to serve as Graduate Teaching Assistants, subject to departmental needs and appointment requirements.

Academic Advising

Upon admission to the MLA program and arrival on Clemson University Campus, first year MLA students will work with the Director of Graduate Program and Student Services Coordinator for academic advising. Academic advisors will help you begin to plan your degree and answer any questions that you may have.

The director of the Graduate Program will continue guiding you in planning your curriculum and assist in guiding your research activities and the preparation of your MLA Terminal project.

Computer and Technology Requirements

The Landscape Architecture program has no formal requirements for computer literacy or competency. However, each graduate student is expected to be proficient in the basic use of digital computers. Use of computers and competency in various software programs will be necessary in all graduate courses. Students will be introduced to digital software in their Digital Design course and are expected to acquire and develop the skills needed to be successful in design studio and lecture and seminar courses. Clemson Computing and Information Technology (CCIT) provide workshops in Adobe Creative Suite. These workshops are announced and are available to help students who need help to gain competency in those programs.

Throughout the MLA program students are expected to develop skills and competency in Adobe Creative Suites (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator) CAD, GIS and other rendering software such as Sketchup, Lumion or other comparable software.

For incoming students, our program sends a Technology and Computer flyer with suggested Laptop models and specifications that are recommended for design programs such as landscape architecture and architecture. The flyer is updated and provided each year by CCIT in consultation with the professional program. Lee Hall has several computer laboratories open and available for students' use. however, students typically purchase their own computers.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Facilities at Clemson

Geographic Information System (GIS) is a mapping methodology that overlays, integrates, and analyzes geographically referenced data, often assembled from different sources. GIS is a highly recommended software for MLA to learn and utilize during their program. Students use GIS at any of Clemson University's five computer labs that have dedicated GIS workstations in Lee, Barre, Hardin, and Lehotsky Halls.

GIS Labs at 2-212 Lee Hall and B 108 Barre Hall are operated by City and Regional Planning program. These labs have 24-hour access. They are smart classrooms equipped with a video and data projector. Lee Hall lab has 15 workstations with 21-inch monitors. Barre Hall Lab has 14 workstations

with 17-inch LCD monitors. Each lab has a color laser printer and network access to Barre's HP DesignJet 36" plotter. The workstations run Windows and use the most current ESRI ArcGIS and ERDAS Imagine software. With this arrangement, students have access to world-class GIS and remote sensing software and the latest computer hardware. While connected to the University network, the labs have their own sub network and server where students can access their university accounts and data.

Transfer Credits

University policy does not allow automatic transfer of graduate credit. Students with graduate credit earned at another institution, in another department at Clemson University, or earned before admission to this program must have prior work evaluated for transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit to the program must be recommended by and approved by the Director of the Graduate Program, Director of the Landscape Architecture Program, and the Dean of the Graduate School. Students must make a request in writing for each course or credited activity to be transferred. Each request must be accompanied by an official transcript, catalog description and syllabus or other supporting documentation. Grades earned for courses taken at institutions other than Clemson University will not be included in the student's academic average. All transfer credits must be verified by an official transcript from the institution at which the work was completed. It is your responsibility, not your Major Advisor's or the program's, to request a transcript of transfer credits be sent directly to the Graduate School.

The number of credit hours that may be transferred from an accredited institution to Clemson University will not exceed 12 credit hours.

Waiver of Requirements

The requirements for achieving a graduate degree in Landscape Architecture as outlined in this handbook are designed to provide a consistent minimum level of performance for all graduate students. At the same time, flexibility is provided to allow for the diverse areas of study and individual strengths of each student. Most of this flexibility is built into the existing requirements. A course taken at another institution that is equivalent to one of the core courses may be exempted by your demonstration of competency and providing evidence of equivalency to the MLA Admissions Committee and the Director of the Graduate Program Coordinator. A special examination may be offered to meet these requirements. Substitution of a structured core curriculum course requires the approval of the Director of the Graduate Program.

Under extreme conditions, you may petition for a waiver of other requirements. Your petition must be made in writing to the Program Director. The program will not grant a waiver except in truly extraordinary circumstances.

MLA Degree Requirments

Registering for classes

Incoming MLA students will be provided with a plan of study that shows the classes they need to register for at Clemson University.

Students need to have created their Clemson University ID and set up their email account in order to be able to register for classes. Registration is conducted entirely online via iROAR. The Office of Registration Services and Clemson Computing & Information Technology (CCIT) provide information and tutorials on using iROAR that you may refer to for guidance on the steps to take in the registration process. <https://ccit.clemson.edu/services/business-and-information/iroar/>, <https://www.clemson.edu/registrar/student-menu/registration/>

Additionally, our Student Service Coordinator (Michelle Marchesse), and Program Director (Dr. Hala Nassar), are available to help you with any questions. Graduate students need to register for a minimum of 9 graduate level credit hours to be considered full-time students at Clemson University.

Orientation

All graduate students are required to attend the **Graduate School Orientation** before classes start in the fall. International students must attend an International Services orientation which is sponsored by the International Services office. The Landscape Architecture program also holds an orientation at the start of each fall semester which you must attend. The date, time and location of these orientations will be provided by email no later than three weeks before the start of classes. Additionally, the Landscape Architecture program holds a welcome picnic at the beginning of the academic year for all program students, faculty and staff.

Minimum Degree Requirements

Master's of Landscape Architecture <i>First Professional Degree</i>	
Total hours of course work	81
Core courses required	66
Elective courses required (6000-8000)	9
Final Terminal Project	6 hours
Exams	Final Terminal Project Defense

Master's of Landscape Architecture <i>First Professional Degree _ Advanced Placement</i>	
Total hours of course work	+/- 57 (varies on advanced placement)
Core courses required	45
Elective courses required (6000-8000)	6
Final Terminal Project	6 hours
Exams	Final Terminal Project Defense

Master' s of Landscape Architecture <i>Second Professional Degree</i>	
Total hours of course work	45 credit hours (minimum)
Core courses required	27
Elective courses required (6000-8000)	12
Final Terminal Project	6 hours
Exams	Final Terminal Project Defense

Degree Coursework

First Professional Degree

Summer Mini-D

LARC 8120 Graphic Representation & Communication

Year_1

Fall Semester

LARC 8140 Plants in the Landscape
LARC 8030 Advanced Introduction to Landscape Architecture
LARC 8010 Landscape Architecture Orientation Studio I
LARC 8040 Advanced Digital Representation I

Spring Semester

LARC 8050 Advanced Digital Representation II
LARC 8150 Planting Design
LARC 8300 History of Landscape Architecture
LARC 8020 Landscape Architecture Orientation Studio II

Year_2

Fall Semester

LARC 8610 Design Implementation I
LARC 6810 Landscape Architecture Professional Practice
LARC 8130 / 8230 Advanced Regional / Community Design Studio/Fluid Studio

Spring Semester

LARC 8620 Design Implementation II
LARC 8210 Research Methods
LARC 8520 Advanced Urban Design Studio/Fluid Studio

Year_3

Fall Semester

6000 / 8000 Elective: ***Recommend LARC 8630 Design Implementation III***
LARC 8500 Graduate Colloquium
LARC 8430 Interdisciplinary Design / Fluid Studio

Spring Semester

6000 / 8000	Elective: <i>Recommend LARC 8160 Environmental Issues in LA</i>
6000 / 8000	Elective: <i>Recommend CSM 8690 Applied Application of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones)</i>
LARC 8920	Landscape Architecture Terminal Project

Total: 81 credits

First Professional with Advanced Placement Degree

(Note: total required hours for advanced placement varies per student)

Year_1

Fall Semester

LARC 8030	Advanced Introduction to Landscape Architecture
LARC 8610	Design Implementation I
LARC 8140	Plants in the Landscape
LARC 8130 /8230	Advanced Regional/ Community Design Studio

Spring Semester

LARC 8300	History of Landscape Architecture
LARC 8150	Planting Design
LARC 8210	Research Methods
LARC 8520	Advanced Urban Design Studio

Year_2

Fall Semester

LARC 6810	LA Professional Practice
LARC 8620	Design Implementation II
LARC 8500	Graduate Colloquium
LARC 8430	Interdisciplinary Design and Research Studio

Spring Semester

6000 / 8000	Elective: <i>Recommend CSM 8690 Applied Application of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones)</i>
6000 / 8000	Elective: <i>Recommend LARC 8630 Implementation III</i>
LARC 8920	Landscape Architecture Terminal Project

Total: 57 credits

Second Professional Degree

Year_1

Fall Semester

LARC 8030	Advanced Introduction to LA
6000 / 8000	Elective: <i>Recommend CSM 8690 Applied Application of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones)</i>
LARC 8130/8230	Advanced Regional / Community Design Studio

Spring Semester

LARC 8210	Research Methods
6000 / 8000	Elective: <i>Recommend LARC 8160 Environmental Issues in LA</i>
LARC 8520	Advanced Urban Design / World Design Studio

Year_2

Fall Semester

LARC 8500	Graduate Colloquium
LARC 8430	Interdisciplinary Design and Research Studio
6000/8000	Elective: <i>Recommend Landscape Aesthetics</i>

Spring Semester

LARC 8240	Elective: <i>Recommend Advanced Urban Design Seminar</i>
LARC 8920	Terminal Project

Total: 45 credits

Note: Please check program recommended list of electives, consult with program director and student service coordinator for elective courses.

Courses outside discipline

It is expected that a student may choose non-Landscape Architecture courses as a part of their plan of study. These decisions are normally made through advising and are designed to enhance your academic program, complement your research interest and support your terminal project focus areas. Credit received for graduate-level courses taught by other departments may also be counted toward your degree, provided those courses involve subject matter that is relevant to your degree

program and are graduate level courses (6000-8000 level). Students should consult with and receive approval from the graduate program director and student services coordinator for the courses to count towards your MLA program.

Directed Studies

Directed study is allowed for MLA students whose records indicate that they are exceptionally well prepared and are interested in developing deeper investigation in specific areas of research. To take a directed study course, you must:

- Have contacted and secured the willingness of the instructor you are interested to study with.
- Request the Directed Study course (LARC 8900) on or before preregistration for the semester you intend to take the directed study.
- Present completed directed study proposal form to the Program Director and your prospective instructor. Please work with your instructor to complete the following:
 - A typed syllabus of the course, including a description of the topic and learning goals and outcomes.
 - A list of reading materials, sources, articles, and textbooks as appropriate.
 - A semester schedule of readings, papers, or exams
 - Course expectations of deliverables or exams
 - Student, teaching instructor and Program director's signatures on the directed studies form.

The Directed Study form may be obtained from the Program's Student Services Coordinator. The completed form, including all required signatures and an attached syllabus, must be submitted to the Student Services Coordinator in a timely manner to ensure registration for the course.

In some cases, a Directed Study may be supervised by a faculty member outside the Landscape Architecture Program. In such instances, and only if the proposal merits approval, the student must obtain authorization from the Director of the Graduate MLA Program. No Directed Study credit will be awarded without prior approval from the Program Director.

To be eligible for a Directed Study, students must maintain a minimum cumulative graduate GPA equivalent to a B+ average and must have completed at least 24 credit hours of graduate coursework in the program, excluding research credits.

Directed Studies are intended to provide opportunities for specialized academic inquiry and are not intended to substitute for required coursework or to complete unfinished program requirements. If a Directed Study is proposed during a student's final semester or summer session, the student must demonstrate that no regularly offered course can satisfy the relevant curriculum requirement.

Students may apply a maximum of six (6) credit hours of Directed Study coursework toward the MLA degree.

Plan of Study (GS2)

Incoming students are provided with an MLA graduate Plan of study. The graduate degree curriculum form (form GS2) should be filed by the time you have completed about nine credit hours. Filing the form early in your program helps the student stay on track and finish their coursework according to the curriculum map or their individualized plan of study. Students must file online a GS2 with the Graduate School no later than the last day of classes of the term before the term in which you plan to graduate. see Graduate School forms and deadlines

www.grad.clemson.edu/forms/GeneralForms.php

The GS2 represents the formulation of an individual student's curriculum as approved by your Program Director. It must adhere to Graduate School as well as program policies. Courses more than those required for the degree should not be listed on the GS2. Any questions concerning undergraduate deficiencies, transfer of graduate credit from other institutions, special program requirements, etc., should be resolved before the GS2 is submitted. Graduate Committee approval of your plan of study is indicated by their signatures on the GS2.

You must complete any class listed on your GS2 before graduation; if you fail to do so, you must file a revised GS2. Prior to graduation, you may revise your degree curriculum as needed subject to the necessary Graduate Committee, Director, and Dean approvals.

Terminal Project requirements

To complete the Master of Landscape Architecture degree, students have to successfully complete two courses in their final year in the program Graduate Colloquium LARC 8500, and Terminal Project LARC 8920.

- Graduate Colloquium LARC 8500 (fall of final year) entails developing the final research proposal that will be taken the following semester into the culminating master Terminal Project. Students develop their research question/s, identify areas of literature, examine precedents, apply research methods to data collection, select and examine project site, and deliver a written proposal and oral presentation.
- Terminal Project LARC 8920 (Spring of final year) is where students design their selected project site that demonstrate research application, independent thinking, and innovative design.
- Students give three presentations in their final semester: mid-semester review, defense review (faculty only review) and comprehensive review (public presentation).

Terminal Project is conducted in a studio format. Final deliverables are determined by the instructor of record and outlined in the course syllabus. Adjustments or modifications to final deliverable will be reviewed if needed and shall be approved by the instructor of record and Program Director. Landscape Architecture requires each student submit a digital copies of final Terminal Project deliverables prior to completion of the GS-2 routing.

Terminal Project Pre-requirements

- Three Graduate Committee members will be selected or assigned before the GS2 is submitted in iROAR.

- Approved Proposal by the Committee and Program Director
- LARC 8500 must be completed prior to LARC 8910 to prepare for LARC 8920 Terminal Project

For further graduate school policies please see

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policies-procedures/index.html>

Graduating MLA students are required to give three different presentations in their final semester.

- Mid-semester review. This presentation is open to all Landscape Architecture faculty to give feedback on the progress of the terminal projects. It typically occurs at the conclusion of the conceptual development phase and beginning of Masterplan development.
- Defense Review. This is the final design review attended by the Landscape Architecture faculty. This is a pass/fail review and determines if the students have successfully completed the terminal project expected deliverables and outcomes. Students passing their defense review will submit their graduation GS7M form indicating that they passed their final examination.
- Comprehensive Review. This is the final design review that is open to the public and occurs during the Landscape Architecture Final Design Review week. Comprehensive review is typically attended by professionals, alumni, SC ASLA Chapter executive board and Landscape Architecture faculty and students.

Time required and deadlines

Please see Clemson University Graduate School deadlines.

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/deadlines.html>

- For the First Professional Degree track, the department considers six academic semesters plus the completion of the required summer basic design studios sufficient time in which to obtain a master's degree.
- For the First Professional Advanced Placement Degree track, students will work with the Graduate Coordinator and Student Services Coordinator to develop an appropriate timeline to complete all requirements to obtain the master's degree. This timeline varies depending on level of advanced placement.
- For the Second Professional Degree track, the department considers four academic semesters plus one summer sufficient time in which to obtain a master's degree.
- See the Graduate School Announcements for Graduate School policy on time limits for completing your graduate program.

<http://www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/catalogGrad.html>

Residency requirement

See the link for details on <https://www.clemson.edu/financial-aid/residency/> OR the Graduate School Policy Handbook at <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/academics/policies-and-procedures.html>

Foreign language requirement

The Landscape Architecture Program does not have a foreign language requirement.

Internships/field placement

Although internships are not required as part of the MLA curriculum, they can provide valuable opportunities for professional development, experiential learning, networking, and financial support.

Students are encouraged to explore internship opportunities through previous employers, professional contacts, and industry networks. Numerous online resources and professional organizations also provide information about available internship positions. In addition, the Program Director and faculty members maintain information about local, regional, and national organizations that have expressed interest in hosting interns from the program or have previously employed Clemson Landscape Architecture students. Faculty can provide guidance and recommendations to help students identify internship opportunities that align with their academic and professional goals.

Final Check-Out and Exit Interview

Upon leaving Clemson University, whether due to graduation or for any other reason, students are required to complete the following departmental procedures:

- Return all assigned keys to Michelle Marchesse in Lee Hall III, Room 3-112.
- Notify the Program Director of your departure, confirm that all program and university obligations have been satisfied, and schedule an exit interview.
- Complete the Graduate Student Exit Survey and participate in an exit interview with the Director of the Graduate Landscape Architecture Program.

Completion of these procedures helps ensure a smooth transition and provides valuable feedback for the continued improvement of the program.

MLA Standards of Performance

Maintaining academic standing

Graduate students are required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B average) in all graduate coursework. Students whose GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation in accordance with Clemson University Graduate School policies. During the probationary period, students may become ineligible for graduate assistantships, fellowships, or other forms of financial support.

Students are permitted only one probationary semester during their graduate program. Failure to return to good academic standing following the probationary period may result in dismissal from the program.

In addition, a grade of D or F in a course within the student's major field of study may constitute grounds for dismissal from the program regardless of the student's overall GPA.

To be eligible for graduation, MLA students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Students whose GPA falls below 3.0 during their final semester at Clemson University will not be permitted to graduate and must complete additional graduate-level coursework until the minimum GPA requirement is achieved.

Grading and Grade Point Average

The Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture follows Clemson University's graduate grading system, which utilizes plus/minus letter grades for final course evaluations.

Graduate students may receive final grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, or F. Grades of D are not awarded at the graduate level. Academic work receiving a grade below C- is considered unsatisfactory and is assigned a grade of F.

Students should consult the Clemson University Graduate School Policies and Procedures for current grading policies and academic regulations: <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/academics/policies-and-procedures.html>.

Individual instructors may establish course-specific grading criteria and assessment methods, which will be outlined in the course syllabus. Final grades are assigned based on the instructor's professional evaluation of student performance. The following letter-grade descriptions may serve as general guidelines for evaluating performance in design studios and other graduate-level coursework:

A, A- Excellent

The work reflects significant depth of understanding of the assignments, to their full potential. The problems have been both fully developed and communicated exceedingly well graphically, three dimensionally and orally. The work illustrates a mastery of comprehension and application of the concepts covered. This means outstanding work exceeding project expectations, exceptional. The

student has worked diligently throughout the entire semester, has consistently been prepared for studio with new work, and has completed all assignments throughout the semester with excellence and on time.

B+, B, B- Very Good to Good

The student has exceeded the minimum requirements of the assignment and has shown an above average understanding of its intent and focus. The work demonstrates thorough exploration, development, and execution, including good craftsmanship. All design work is communicated exceedingly well graphically; three dimensionally and orally shows a good standard of craftsmanship. This means above-average work. The student has worked diligently throughout the entire semester, has been prepared for studio with new work at most class sessions, and has completed assignments throughout the semester at a high level in a timely manner.

C+, C, C- Average to Mediocre

The minimum requirements of the assignment have been met. Work lacks depth of understanding or development. The overall product exhibits little imagination or innovation or does not provoke comment. The student has not worked diligently throughout the entire semester, has not been prepared for studio with new work at most class meetings, and has not completed assignments throughout the semester at a high level. Assignments have been late. Design work meets the requirements of the assignments and problems have been solved adequately, but the solutions lack depth of complete understanding and development. The work is not communicated well graphically, three dimensionally, orally, and shows a lack of craftsmanship. The overall work demonstrates skills appropriate for this level. This means average, acceptable work.

F Poor or Unacceptable

The work has not met minimum requirements. The work is incomplete and/or poorly portrayed. The solutions to problems evidence a lack of understanding and skills appropriate to this level, and a general lack of effort in fulfilling assignments. This means unacceptable work and the student must repeat course to get credit.

I (Incomplete) The work is incomplete due to extraordinary circumstance

An I can only be given to a student for work that is incomplete due to dire and uncontrollable circumstance(s) that have strictly prohibited the work from being completed, such as an extended medical condition. Any situation responsible for consideration of granting an (I) must be fully documented by the student and approved by the instructor. Completion of incomplete work must be done in accordance with university regulations; not completing work on time may result in an F grade. For the Graduate School policy on incomplete grades, see

<http://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policies-procedures/index.html>

Grade point average quality points will be assigned as follows:

- A: 4.00
- A-: 3.66
- B+: 3.34

- B: 3.00
- B-: 2.66
- C+: 2.34
- C: 2.00
- C-: 1.66
- F: 0.00

Minimum Performance Expectations

Graduate students must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0.

A minimum grade of C in all courses must be earned for the course to apply toward a degree. No credit will be earned for courses in which a student receives less than a C-.

If a student receives a failing grade in a required course, and if the student is not dismissed from the program (see below), the student's graduation will be delayed by one year, as most required courses are offered only once per year.

See <http://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policies-procedures/index.html>.

Academic Probation and Dismissal

A graduate student must maintain a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for all courses taken.

If at any time you fail to satisfy this requirement, you will be placed on academic probation or dismissed from the program. In addition, a failing grade in a course in your major area may be cause for dismissal regardless of your overall average. It is possible for a student to be dismissed from the program after one semester of poor performance.

If placed on academic probation, you will no longer be eligible for a departmental assistantship and may no longer be eligible for financial aid. Since a primary factor in the award of an assistantship is academic performance, academic probation is grounds for the retraction of an assistantship. Poor academic performance is also an indication that a student will not benefit academically from the additional work of an assistantship, irrespective of financial needs.

For more information regarding the grounds for and procedures regarding dismissal, see <http://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policies-procedures/index.html>.

FERPA

FERPA stands for the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. It is a federal law that indicates how records of enrolled and formerly enrolled students must be handled. For information of what FERPA is, what rights are accorded, and what is covered by the regulations, see the Registrar's website, www.registrar.clemson.edu/FERPA. One aspect to be aware of is that if you ask a faculty member to provide a job reference or other academic reference, such as for a scholarship or award, the faculty should request from you a written release to disclose the related academic information.

Academic and Personal Issues

Make an appointment to speak with your Advisor or Program Director to discuss academic or personal issues/problems. They can offer you advice about conflicts with students or instructors, and dissatisfaction with courses or program structures; and they can help or guide you to resources or strategies for dealing with personal issues affecting your academic work.

Continuous Enrollment

All graduate students in the program are expected to maintain continuous enrollment. Note that you must meet minimum enrollment requirements to be eligible for financial aid, and only students who are enrolled are eligible to use University facilities, university supported insurance and medical care, and other services.

Students failing to maintain continuous enrollment (excluding summer terms) must apply to the Graduate School for re-entry and obtain approval from their department. Graduate students who do not maintain continuous enrollment are subject to the requirements in effect at the time you return.

Enrollment on a Pass/Fail basis

The only graduate courses that may be taken on a pass/fail basis are thesis and dissertation research and a small number of unstructured courses in which the pass/fail grading system appears in the course description.

Withdraw from courses

As a graduate student in the Master of Landscape Architecture program, you will be permitted to drop courses in which you are enrolled only in exceptional cases and with the prior approval of the Program Coordinator, your Major Advisor and the course instructor.

Repeating a course

Under some circumstances, graduate students may repeat courses in which they received an F. It is recommended that you repeat a course if you receive a C or less in any course required as a part of the degree program. If you repeat a course for which you received a grade of F, you do not receive additional credit. The grades from the two courses are averaged; the F is not dropped.

Leave of Absence

To remain in compliance with the University's continuous enrollment requirement, students must request and receive approval for an official leave of absence from both their program of study and the Graduate School if they need to temporarily suspend their studies (for up to one year). This request must be submitted in a timely manner and approved prior to the start of the leave period. The policy and procedures governing leaves of absence are available in the Clemson University Graduate School Policies and Procedures: <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/academics/policies-and-procedures.html>.

Dismissal for Failure to Comply

Students who fail to maintain continuous enrollment, or secure an approved leave of absence, will be dismissed from the Graduate School without further notice. Students dismissed from the Graduate School for failure to maintain continuous enrollment, or failure to secure an official leave of absence,

will be required to submit new applications for consideration of readmission. All documentation required for new applicants, and the prevailing application fee, will be required. Readmission is not guaranteed.

Withdrawing from the program/University

If, for any reason, you decide to withdraw from the program, you must first inform your Major Advisor and then the Program Director, who will guide you through the official University withdrawal procedures. Failure to follow these procedures may result in financial obligations, including tuition and other fees owed to the University. This policy applies to both domestic and international students.

Professionalism

The awarding of an advanced degree does not merely attest to completion of academic requirements in courses, seminars and research activities, but also to the acquisition of acceptable professional standards, including standards of ethics (see the University's Academic Integrity Policy http://www.clemson.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/universitypolicies/academic_integrity.html and the American Society of Landscape Architect's violations of professional standards may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the program.

Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy.

<https://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/anti-harassment-policy.html>.

Alcohol and Drug Use Policies

<http://www.clemson.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/universitypolicies/alcohol-and-other-drugs-policies.html>

Drugs

The use, possession, distribution, or dispensing of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the University.

Alcohol

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all College of Architecture, Art and Construction facilities, including Lee Hall classrooms and studios, the Courtyard, the Gallery, and the Gunnin Architecture Library.

Smoking

Clemson University is a smoke-free campus. Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and all vaping devices, is strictly prohibited on campus property.

Lee Hall House Rules

Lee Hall is a large building, but it still requires cooperation from everyone who uses it in order to serve all its occupants effectively. The building provides learning spaces for five related disciplines:

Art, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning, and Construction Science. We must all work together to maintain a safe, productive, and supportive learning environment for everyone.

Common Sense

- Clean up after yourself.
- Return items to where you found them.
- Do not take, use, or move items that do not belong to you.
- Use headphones when listening to audio, as others may not share your preference in music.
- Use the designated deep work sink for cleaning materials such as paint. Do not use bathroom or kitchen sinks for these purposes.

Review spaces

Public review spaces are located along the north and south glazed walls of Lee 3. There are sign-up sheets available for the reserve of these spaces. Some spaces are reserved through staff calendars. Please leave the chairs and benches in these areas for that purpose. Also, return the review spaces to a condition ready for the next review to occur. **No desks in these areas.**

End of semester

Studios will be completely cleaned of all unwanted materials and belongings and all furniture will be returned to its proper location. **No grades will be submitted until this is completed.**

Prohibitions

(Per Clemson University Fire Marshal and OSHA regulations; violations may result in fines or disciplinary action)

- Space heaters, hot water kettles, and personal electrical appliances (e.g., coffee pots, microwaves, refrigerators) are not permitted.
- Task lighting must be energy-efficient (compact fluorescent or LED) and used at individual workstations only.
- Ungrounded or unprotected power strips are prohibited. All power strips must be surge-protected, rated for a minimum of 14 AWG wiring and a 15-amp breaker.
- Extension cords are not permitted. Electrical devices must be plugged directly into wall outlets or approved surge-protected power strips.
- Power cords may not be run across floors or placed in ways that create tripping hazards.
- “Daisy chaining” of power strips, use of multiple cube adapters, and 3-prong plug adapters are strictly prohibited.
- Skateboards, roller skates, and bicycles are not permitted inside the building. Bicycle racks are provided outside; please “roll” outdoors.
- Desks may not be moved into review spaces or egress pathways.
- Exit routes, including interior exits and exterior discharge areas, must remain clear at all times.
- Exterior doors must not be propped open or obstructed.
- Fan coil units and HVAC supply/return vents must not be blocked.
- Nothing may be hung from ceilings or ceiling structures.

- Spray paint, spray fixative, and spray adhesive are prohibited anywhere inside or outside Lee Hall. Projects completed using spray paint in unauthorized areas will receive a failing grade.

Furniture

Every student enrolled in a studio course is assigned a desk and a task chair. Please keep track of your desk chair, as it tends to “travel.”

Lee Hall contains more chairs than occupants. However, they may not always be located where needed. Please return all chairs to their designated locations after use. This helps prevent the unnecessary relocation of furniture between spaces.

- Black side chairs with red “buttons” are designated for review spaces in Lee II (A and B).
- Tan side chairs and benches are designated for review spaces in Lee III.
- Black side chairs are designated for seminar rooms and offices in Lee III.
- Black rolling task chairs are designated for student workstations in Lee III.

Personal furniture, including beds, couches, hammocks, lounge chairs, or any other furnishings from home, is not permitted in Lee Hall.

No dogs are allowed in the building. No alcohol is allowed.

Shared resources, such as flat-screen monitors, need to be returned to secure locations, where others can find them.

Space use/Occupancy

Only students who are officially registered and have paid the appropriate fees may attend classes and occupy Lee Hall studios, labs, and classrooms for more than brief visits. See the “Space Use Policy.”

Space use policy

(STUDIO, LAB AND CLASSROOM)

In the Richard A. McMahan School of Architecture, the use of classroom spaces—including studios, labs, and shops—is limited to students who are officially registered in courses assigned to those spaces.

Students may request short-term exceptions to this policy with approval from the course instructor, lab/shop manager, or the School Director. Such exceptions may be granted to support coursework or research requiring studio desk space, studio access, or shop use, including work needed to complete a grade of Incomplete.

Supporting regulations

Clemson University Academic Regulations. Enrollment: “Only students who are officially registered and have paid the appropriate fees may attend classes.”

Clemson University Facility Use Policy. Non-Publicly Available Facilities: “Use of these Facilities shall be restricted to activities related to the education, research and service missions of the University. Unless otherwise specified, the following are Non-Publicly Available Facilities:

Rationale

Enrolled students in the programs of the Richard A. McMahan School of Architecture at all locations have the privilege of being assigned a dedicated desk in their design studio, reserved solely for their use, as well as access to specialized fabrication facilities. This generous allocation of space, supported by tuition and laboratory fees and typical of education in architecture, landscape architecture, historic preservation, and urban design, fosters engaged, collaborative, studio-based learning in an environment modeled on professional practice.

Studio-based education promotes project-based learning, collaboration, respect, engagement, critique, assessment, balance, discourse, and dissemination. Our programs are distinguished by strengths in interdisciplinary learning, service learning, material exploration, and design innovation. The School of Architecture has established Learning Culture and Studio Culture policies, as required by NAAB accreditation, which serve as guiding statements of values across our disciplines. Faculty and students share responsibility for stewarding and sustaining this studio learning culture. To maintain a fair and productive learning environment for all enrolled students, studio spaces are reserved exclusively for students officially enrolled in the course assigned to that space. Students assigned to a studio space may consider it their primary academic workspace and may use it on a 24/7 basis.

Shared semi-public areas within the school’s facilities, including circulation and review spaces, are frequented by individuals beyond the School of Architecture. The school welcomes visitors—including community members, clients, external collaborators, family members, alumni, other Clemson students, and guests—for short visits. However, the school also reserves the right to prioritize and protect its primary learning environments for their intended purpose: the education of enrolled students.

Additional related policies governing facilities and studio culture include the Learning Culture Policy, the Studio Culture Statement, and Lee Hall III House Rules, all available at:

<https://www.clemson.edu/caac/academics/architecture/campuses/fluid-campus-clemson.html>

Funding and Employment Opportunities

There are numerous opportunities for funding and employment in Landscape Architecture and the School of Architecture. These include:

Fellowships

Fellowship awards are available and competitive. The Landscape Architecture Program offers fellowships in the amount of \$1,000 for an academic year to highly competitive graduate students. This prestigious fellowship also provides a reduction in tuition for out-of-state students to the in-state tuition rate.

Teaching Employment

Graduate students can be employed in the Landscape Architecture program to assist with teaching different courses. These opportunities are available on a competitive, semester-by-semester basis, as needs for teaching assistants arise and based on student skill sets and teaching experience. Teaching employment in Landscape Architecture is based on hourly rates.

Research Employment

Graduate students can be employed in the Landscape Architecture program to assist with research projects and grants. Research employment is frequently available from our research centers or individual faculty members' grants and contracts. Research employment is competitive and based on hourly rates.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Assistantships are limited and highly competitive positions awarded to outstanding students. These appointments may include teaching, research, or program support responsibilities and are assigned based on program needs and student qualifications. Graduate Assistantships may include a tuition waiver and/or stipend support, in accordance with Clemson University Graduate School policies and available funding.

Other Employment

Graduate students can be employed in Landscape Architecture and the School of Architecture to perform different types of jobs. For example, students can be employed as laboratory assistants and instructors in the Digital Design Shop, Laser Cutter Laboratory, Robotics Laboratory, and Woodshop. Students are also employed to assist with special projects as program and school needs arise. Employment is based on hourly wages.

Internship (via Catalyst Award)

Graduate students can obtain an internship with a local area firm. Funding is provided by the firm through a Catalyst Award that is directly transferred as funds to Clemson University. Clemson University, in turn, pays the students for their hourly employment with the firm after they are added to Clemson University payroll. The student must have registered for the professional Internship in Landscape Architecture (LARC 8930) course to qualify for the funds.

Minimum Enrollment

A minimum enrollment is required for appointment as a graduate assistant. During the academic year, the minimum enrollment is nine semester hours for all graduate assistants. Minimum enrollment in the summer sessions is three semester hours per session. Undergraduate credits may be included in the minimum provided they are relevant to your degree program and required by your Advisory Committee. Credits in GS7 may be included in the minimum in unusual cases cleared in advance with the Graduate School.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

The Master of Landscape Architecture program recognizes that generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools are becoming increasingly common in academic and professional practice. Students are

expected to use these technologies responsibly, ethically, and in accordance with University policies and instructor expectations.

The use of AI tools in coursework may be permitted, restricted, or prohibited depending on the learning objectives and the requirements of individual courses. Students are responsible for understanding and following the AI use guidelines provided by each instructor.

All use of AI must comply with the University's policies on academic integrity, student conduct, and responsible use of technology. Students remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of all work submitted for assessment, regardless of whether AI tools were used during its preparation.

For the University's current policies, guidance, and expectations regarding the use of artificial intelligence, students should consult the official University website. Because these policies may be updated over time, the University website is the authoritative source for the most current information. <https://www.clemson.edu/ai/guidelines/>

Appendix A

Professional Licensure

Professional licensure is obtained by examination through the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Board. To take the exam, you must have 1-5 years' experience (depending on the state) working under a registered landscape architect. Each state has its own licensure process. You may have to take another section of this exam unique to a particular state in addition to the national test to become registered in a particular state. In addition to the CLARB website, visit the ASLA website at <http://www.asla.org/> for more information.

Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB)

1840 Michael Faraday Drive, Suite 200, Reston, Virginia 20190

Phone: (571) 432-0332

Email: info@clarb.org

Website: www.clarb.org

The L.A.R.E. is a four-part fully computerized examination designed to determine whether applicants for landscape architectural licensure possess sufficient knowledge, skills and abilities to provide services without endangering the health, safety and welfare of the public. It is prepared and scored by CLARB in accordance with all current standards for fairness and quality of licensure exams.

The L.A.R.E. is made up of the following sections:

Section 1: Project and Construction Management

Section 2: Inventory and Analysis

Section 3: Design

Section 4: Grading, Drainage and Construction Documentation

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Appendix B

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