

Auburn University Master of Landscape Architecture LAAB Public Information

Programs leading to first professional degrees at the bachelor's or master's levels in the United States are eligible to apply for accreditation from the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). LAAB is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the official accrediting body for first professional programs in landscape architecture. LAAB is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA).

The Master in Landscape Architecture program at Auburn University is accredited by LAAB. Auburn has had an LAAB accredited MLA program since 2003. The most recent review was in Fall 2015, and the next accreditation review is scheduled for Fall 2022.

In accordance with the Higher Education Act, we confirm that our Master in Landscape Architecture program at the Auburn University School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture meets the educational requirements for licensure eligibility in all U.S. states. In the United States, licensure is regulated by individual states. For more information about licensure requirements, see <https://www.asla.org/licensure.aspx>.

Mission Statement

The Auburn University Master of Landscape Architecture program prepares students for careers as landscape architects who will imagine, design, and build the 21st century's landscapes. Landscape architecture both offers the tools to engage many of the most pressing issues the world faces today and works with a medium — the landscape — that is richly expressive and engaging. In our studio-focused curriculum, students explore contemporary issues, directly engage landscapes and communities outside the walls of the university, and learn with a faculty of leading landscape practitioners and researchers.

We live in a designed world

Design is everywhere. From forests that are grown and cut to provide timber that makes paper for schoolchildren and office workers, to cities dealing with the legacies of declining heavy industries, to the streets of new suburbs, our world is shaped by the choices people make. These choices are design choices, even when they are not made by designers.

Human impact is inescapable: scientists describe our current age as the 'Anthropocene', which literally means the "age of humanity", because the collective impacts of our civilization on our planet are so broad and pervasive. Many of these impacts make or change landscapes: damming rivers and building levees along their banks, draining wetlands in some places while making new ones in others, turning forests into farms and farms into cities.

This ongoing transformation is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is a challenge because in many of these landscapes, design is happening, but landscape architects are not involved. Landscape architects need to be nimble and skilled in order to learn to contribute.

Yet this is also an opportunity, because the vision, imagination, and practical knowledge of landscape architecture is needed. The world is already being designed, we just need to get involved.

The world is rich, complex, and messy

Here in the landscape architecture program at Auburn, we focus our attention on places where issues like climate dynamics, poverty, and the spatial legacies of racial inequity manifest. Too often, these issues are oversimplified, reduced to dualities that offer easy answers, papering over richness, complexity, and messiness. We push ourselves to go deeper. We aim to be both humble enough to admit that we cannot solve these issues on our own and confident enough to tackle them head-on, working with collaborators, partners, and communities.

Grounded in the landscapes of our home state of Alabama, we deal with places where these issues are prominently felt: post-industrial cities, infrastructural landscapes, rural landscapes, and coasts. We champion underdog landscapes: places that are undervalued, overlooked, and unappreciated.

We are optimistic that landscape architecture can bring real value to these situations, that we can help imagine and build the landscapes of futures that people — in Alabama, in the United States, around the world — will want to live in.

Let's get dirty

We jump in and we get our hands and boots dirty. The attitudes we cultivate are at the core of who we are. We aim to be curious, resourceful, precise, and attentive. We believe in the value of repetition: we do, we reflect, we repeat. Our end is always action, so we build the know-how needed to get to it.

Length of Program

Students in the MLA program can complete their degree in three years (seven semesters - which includes an introductory summer mini-semester and two semesters per year for three years). Students entering the program with a professional undergraduate degree may qualify for advanced placement status, and can graduate in two years (four semesters). For more information on entry pathways, please visit: www.cadc.auburn.edu/landscape.

Student Achievement

Please visit the APLA news feed and Landscape Architecture Instagram account [[landarch_at_au](#)] to see up-to-date details about the activities and achievements of current students, alumni, and faculty.

Student Metrics

As an LAAB-accredited program, Auburn's MLA maintains basic program metrics and makes them available to the public. We hope this data assists potential students in making informed application decisions. All data retrieved from the Auburn University Office of Institutional Research.

DEGREES AWARDED

2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
7	5*	13	8	11

*transition from 2-year to 3-year MLA curriculum - only advanced placement students eligible to graduate

GRADUATION + RETENTION RATES

	degree completed on time*	degree completed with extra time	overall retention rate
2019	73.2	TBD	93.3%
2018	75.0%	8.3%	83.3%
2017	64.3%	21.4%	85.7%
2016	86.6%		86.6%

* advanced placement students typically graduate in 2-years (4 semesters); non advanced placement students in 3-years (7 semesters)

*COSTS PER SEMESTER FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT ASSISTANTSHIPS

	RESIDENT	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
	1 semester	2 semesters	1 semester	2 semesters
Tuition	\$5,193	\$10,386	\$15,579	\$31,158
Registration fee	\$892	\$1,784	\$892	\$1,784
Health Insurance	\$1,022	\$2,028	\$1,022	\$2,028
CADC Professional Fee	\$2,160	\$4,320	\$2,160	\$4,320
Field Studies	\$800-\$2,000	\$800-\$2,000	\$800-\$2,000	\$800-\$2,000
TOTAL	\$10,067 - \$11,267	\$19,318 - \$20,518	\$20,453 - \$21,653	\$40,090 - \$41,290

* effective fall 2022

In addition to tuition and fees, all students are required to purchase a personal laptop that meets program requirements. For more information about specifications and cost [please see this PDF](#).

Financial assistance is competitively available to qualified students via Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA). GRA positions offer students a tuition waiver and stipend at different levels, depending on the position details and available funding. For more information on GRA positions and Financial Assistance, please visit: www.cadc.auburn.edu/landscape.