NC STATE Design

Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning

2025 Public Information Policy

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) requires accredited programs to provide reliable information to the public. This information is intended to help potential students make informed application decisions.

A. Mission and Goals

To inspire and guide design students in their scholarship and application of landscape architecture through design solutions focused on social and environmental principles impacting communities across multiple scales and global territories.

1. Experience of Learning: Instill cultural, empathic skills, as well as critical thinking to challenge and elevate existing disciplinary knowledge and professional leadership.
2. Production and transfer of knowledge: Create, apply, and engage through research, scholarship, and innovation within and beyond the LAEP community.
3. Cultural Competency: Champion a culture of belonging and well-being in everything we do and where ALL are welcome.
4. Community of Practice: Engage and give back to local, national, and global communities through internal and external collaborations and partnerships.
5. Scaling UP: Increase the recognition and visibility of LAEP through an expanded footprint with impacts at regional, national, and global scales.
6. Faculty Ecology: Value, cultivate, and support LAEP's faculty as integral members of our academic community and mission.

B. Accreditation Status

The NC State University Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) professional degree is fully accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). The MLA program successfully completed its last scheduled LAAB accreditation review in December 2015 and the program was awarded a full 6-year re-accreditation through December 2027.

For more information regarding accreditation and the LAAB, see:
http://www.asla.org/accreditationlaab.aspx

C. Cost of Attendance

The following estimated cost of full-time attendance for the year (2024-2025) is summarized and provided for reference. Please note that certain graduate professional programs, including the Master of Landscape Architecture program, carry a tuition increment or "premium" in addition to the regular graduate tuition. This increased tuition charge is used to maintain or enhance the excellence of the program while assuring access to them.

Tuition & Fees AY24-25	In State Graduate	Out-of-State Graduate
Tuition/Fees	$13,699.50	$34,472.50
Health Insurance	$1,182.28	$1,182.28
Personal Expenses	$2,004	$2,004
Housing	$10,084	$10,084
Food	$5,994	$5,994
Books/Supplies	$876	$876
Transportation	$1,356	$1,686
Loan Fees	$162	$162
Total	**$35,357.78**	**$56,460.78**

For more detailed information on costs, see:
https://studentservices.ncsu.edu/finances/tuition-and-fees/tuition-and-fee-rates/graduate-students/.

For the premium tuition rate for the MLA program, please see
https://studentservices.ncsu.edu/finances/tuition-and-fees/tuition-and-fee-rates/graduate-students/.

D. Student Retention and Graduation Rates

MLA Program Retention Rates for New Enrollments

Retention rates consider the percentage of students who began studies and continued into the following academic year. The years below (2020-2024) represent the fall they started their studies and whether they re-enrolled for the subsequent fall.

Entering Year	1-Year Retention Rate
2020	96%
2021	82%
2022	86%
2023	74%
2024	93%

Average time to completion

The program has an average time to completion of 2.59 years over the past five years (2019-2023).

Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)	Time to completion (years)
2020	2.2 years
2021	2.7 years
2022	2.7 years
2023	2.7 years
2024	2.6 years

E. Number of Degrees Granted Per Year

Degrees Awarded: The program has awarded the following number of degrees over the past five years (2020-2025):

Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)	Degrees Awarded	Certificates Awarded*
2019-2020	15	0
2020-2021	19	3

2021-2022	22	3
2022-2023	29	12
2023-2024	24	8
2024-2025	21	5

*Certificates awarded represent students who have earned the Disaster Resilient Policy, Engineering and Design Certificate.

F. Percentage of Students with Timely Graduation

Timely graduation is based on the percentage of students graduating within two or three years of starting the program.

Track II	Within 2 Years	Within 3 Years
2018-2019	100%	100%
2019-2020	53.8%	92.3%
2020-2021	25%	100%
2021-2022	25%	66.7%
2022-2023	80%	80%
2023-2024	10%	10%

Track III	Within 2 Years	Within 3 Years
2018-2019	23.1%	61.5%
2019-2020	–	52.6%
2020-2021	5%	95%
2021-2022	–	70.6%
2022-2023	6.7%	100%
2023-2024*	–	–

* No students who began Track III in 2023-2024 have yet completed the program.

G. Required and Optional Costs:

Laptop requirements are listed on the website and can be found here. A typical computer needed for work in the MLA program will cost between $1,500 and $3,000. Students may incur additional costs for miscellaneous supplies and software for personal computers. Students can participate in optional field trips to visit built works related to their studio subjects.

H. Supplemental and Experiential Learning Opportunities:

Students complete an elective (optional) internship at local design firms during fall, spring or summer semesters. The program offers opportunities to study internationally in locations such as Prague, Mexico City and Colombia, and these programs may incur additional costs. Students also have the opportunity to regularly attend state and national landscape architecture conferences and engage with an innovative student chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (SASLA).

I. Post-Graduation Employment

The MLA program prepares students to work in a wide range of fields. Our graduates work in local private practice around the Triangle to internationally known firms, to the public sector government jobs, to teaching and further advanced research. Alumni are encouraged to stay in touch through our Department LinkedIn page!

Present Occupation	Totals
Graduate Education	2
Academic Practice	4
Private Practice	52
Public Practice	3
Landscape Hort/Design Build	1
Other	1
Unknown	18
Total	81

Includes employment of graduates from 2023, 2024 and 2025.

J. Faculty Profiles:

- The program is delivered by 11 tenure-track faculty and 15 instructional faculty.
- Three tenure-track faculty members have professional licenses.
- Nine instructional faculty members have professional licenses.

K. Licensure Eligibility:

The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program at NC State University is LAAB-accredited and meets the educational requirements for licensure. License requirements for each state can be found on the ASLA website ([access individual state details here](#)) or through the [ASLA fact sheet](#) on this topic. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the Landscape Architecture Registration Exam (LARE), and the program offers opportunities for accessing LARE. While the MLA degree qualifies graduates to sit for the licensure exam, it does not grant licensure.

Prospective Student Information

Information for prospective students can be found on the following websites:

- Master of Landscape Architecture Program Admissions Information: https://design.ncsu.edu/landscape-architecture/academics/mla-admissions/
- Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Homepage: https://design.ncsu.edu/landscape-architecture/
- Financial Aid and Scholarship: https://design.ncsu.edu/resources/financial-aid/

Program Contact Information

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