

MLA Learning Objectives : Competency Areas by Course

Dept. of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning

Learning Levels: U= *Understanding*; A= *Application & Analysis*; E= *Evaluation*
 Learning levels reflect the ascending hierarchy of abilities that students should progress through as they advance in the BLA. This progression in skill level culminates in evaluative abilities, however not every competency area will necessarily see students achieving that level.

Competency Emphasis: P= *Primary Area* S= *Secondary Area*
 Competency emphasis reflects the relative level of importance of each listed competency area. A primary area of competency is of the highest importance.

	First Professional Degree Year One Courses											Year Two Courses						
	1200	6230	2600	2700	6860	2620	1350	2720	3610	6890	GIS	CAD	6310	6410	4120/30	6350	6740	6910
Natural Systems																		
Have a proficient understanding of natural systems and how they work with particular emphasis on plants and animals and their communities, soils, and surface and subsurface hydrology									U/A/S				A/S					
Be able to use plants as design elements in the living system, and evaluate the use and application of plants in planting designs.													A/S	U/S				
Have an understanding of the use of plants in the design process and evaluate their responsiveness to environmental and cultural context, functional concerns and aesthetics based on an understanding of design theory and principles		U/P												U/S				
Understand the principles of sustainability and be able to synthesize and evaluate their application.													A/S					
Understand and apply conservation biology and landscape ecology methodologies and principles.																		
Apply the concepts of conservation biology in planning, design and management solutions that preserve, enhance or restore habitat.																		
Cultural Systems																		
Understand the basic attributes of human behavior and how they affect perception and the use of space		U/P					U/S						A/S	A/P			A/S	
Understand the full range of user needs through varying age and abilities, and be able to apply them in the design of responsive environmental settings.													A/S	A/S				
Understand the biological basis and attributes of personal space, territory, home range, home base and how they affect human behaviour.													A/S					
Understand how human behaviour and the perception and use of space is influenced by culture																		
Understand the issues of cross-cultural design in public spaces.														U/S				
													U/S	U/S				
Understand the constituents of the phenomenal environment (human, physical and experiential) and how they affect and are affected by human behaviour.		U/P																
Apply the understanding of human behaviour to the planning and design of use relationships, circulation and general organization of site plans.													U/A/S	A/S			A/S	
Design and Planning Theory																		
Develop an indepth understanding of design theory and "principles" in the discipline of landscape architecture.		U/P					A/P		U/S				U/A/P	U/P			A/S	
Have the ability to apply and evaluate design theory and principles in landscape design problems.														U/S			A/S	
Apply a range of approaches (conceptual, perceptual and analytical) to describe and design solutions.														A/P			A/S	
Understand the role of the range of public and private stakeholders in the planning and design of sites.		U/S											U/P	A/P				
Attain a proficiency in understanding landscapes and applying design ideas three dimensionally.		U/S							U/A/S				AU/P					
Attain a proficiency in understanding and applying design ideas in the 4th dimension - time. in the 4th dimension- time	U/S						A/P						AU/P	U/P			A/S	
Understand the multiplicity of scale involved in design and its importance for quality in place-making, decision-making and larger planning issues.		U/S					U/S						A/P	A/P				
Understand the theories of aesthetics and beauty and be able to apply and evaluate them in the design process.																		
Understand, apply and evaluate land use and transportation planning theory.														U/S			P/E	
Understand and apply land use law, regulatory techniques and policy.									A/S				A/S				A/P	

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	1200	6230	2600	2700	6860	2620	1350	2720	3610	6890	GIS	CAD	6310	6410	4120/30	6350	6740	6910
Understand the importance of creative thinking and problem solving in the design process (the actions of seeing, thinking and doing) and be able to apply it in design solutions.							A/P						A/P	A/S				
Understand regional landscape planning theory, methods, and applications and then apply them on real projects.																	A/S	
Understand how to integrate a variety of regional landscape planning project scales, from broad to site-specific.														U/S				
Understand the design process.	U/S						A/P						A/P	A/S				
Possess the ability to critically assess a design problem and apply the design process to develop a creative and functional product.													A/P					
Understand land use relationships and have the ability to apply this understanding in the execution of site plans									U/A/S				A/P					
Understand and be able to apply principles of pedestrian and vehicular circulation							U/S						A/P				P/E	
Site Design and Engineering																		
Understand and have the ability to apply site planning and design methodologies at the full range of scales.									U/S				A/P	A/P				
Understand the process of developing a design program and have the ability to apply it to a site.									U/A/S				A/P	A/P				
Understand and have the ability to apply site engineering and construction processes, materials and methods to a site.									U/A/P				A/S					
Understand local codes and building standards.									U/A/S				A/P	A/S				
Have the capability to analyze programs and landscapes- discern the essential problem or problems to be solved							U/S		U/A/S				A/P	A/P				
Understand emerging areas in site engineering including on-site storm water management, bioengineering for erosion control and bioremediation.																		
Understand and apply principles of site grading and drainage													A/S					
Understand and apply principles of surface hydrology																		
Understand and apply production of grading, drainage, and stormwater plans													A/S					
Communication																		
Competence to conceptualize, portray and evaluate ideas graphically.	U/P						A/P		U/A/S				A/S	A/P				
Ability to convey ideas logically and persuasively through writing (application).		A/S					A/S			A/P			A/P	A/S				A/P
Understand proper citation and style formats and be able to apply them in written and visual documents		A/S					U/S			U/A/P			A/P					
Understand how to convey ideas through verbal communication and apply it.									A/S	U/A/S			A/S	A/P				A/P
Understand the theories of public participation and apply them in													U/S					A/S
Understand and apply the model-making process.							A/P						A/S	A/S				
Understand theories of negotiation and apply them in appropriate situations.																		
Understand and have the ability to apply the examination, organization and representation of information.							A/P			U/A/P			A/P	A/S				
Understand various methods of visualizing information and be able to apply the conventions of landscape architectural representation.									A/S				A/P					
Research Skills																		
Understand and be able to apply :																		
- various research methodologies.										U/A/P								A/S
- methods of data collection and management			A/S							U/A/P			A/S					A/S
- methods of data analysis			A/S							U/A/P			A/S					A/S
- processes of critical thinking			A/S							U/A/P			A/S					A/S
Develop a research idea, question, and research protocol										U/A/P								
Develop the ability to manage and budget time.													A/S					
Technologies																		
Have a working understanding of CAD.																		
Have a working understanding of GIS and be able to apply it to solving planning problems													A/S					
Have a working understanding of other digital imaging programs and be able to apply them to the graphic communication goals.	U/S																	
History and Criticism																		
Develop an understanding of visual landscape change related to human action throughout history.		U/P												U/S				
Understand the historical development of the landscape in the Intermountain West. (Note: new course)																		

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Understand the historical development and contemporary practice of the profession of landscape architecture.		U/P					U/S											
Understand the development of landscape and planning theories, their roots and their evolution through time.		U/P											A/S					
Evaluate landscape design within the broader context of historical change as affected by cultural, political, social and economic movements.		U/P																
Develop a vocabulary of design styles and elements based on historical antecedents.		U/P											A/S	A/S				
Understand the history, workings, and significance of the public lands in the western US.		U/S											U/S					
Understand and apply critical thinking and analysis.																		
Understand, analyze, evaluate the important literature in the profession		U/P											U/S	UA/S				
Understand and evaluate the planning and design of built works		U/S																
Values and Ethics																		
Have a clear understanding of professional practice norms and standards																		
Understand the historical evolution of a land ethic.		U/P											A/S					
Evaluate the application and theories of environmental ethics.																		
Develop and apply skills in communicating with other professionals.		U/S								A/S								
Understand, apply and evaluate land use law, regulatory techniques and policy.																		
Understanding of how to apply project management skills.																		

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Competency Emphasis: P= *Primary Area* S= *Secondary Area*
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	2220	6320	6750	6160	6930	Year Three Courses			
						6100	6110	6970	6960
Natural Systems									
Have a proficient understanding of natural systems and how they work with particular emphasis on plants and animals and their communities, soils, and surface and subsurface hydrology									
Be able to use plants as design elements in the living system, and evaluate the use and application of plants in planting designs.									
Have an understanding of the use of plants in the design process and evaluate their responsiveness to environmental and cultural context, functional concerns and aesthetics based on an understanding of design theory and principles		U/S							
Understand the principles of sustainability and be able to synthesize and evaluate their application.		U/S			A/S				
Understand and apply conservation biology and landscape ecology methodologies and principles.		U/S			A/S				
Apply the concepts of conservation biology in planning, design and management solutions that preserve, enhance or restore habitat.		A/S			A/P				
Cultural Systems									
Understand the basic attributes of human behavior and how they affect perception and the use of space		A/S			A/P				
Understand the full range of user needs through varying age and abilities, and be able to apply them in the design of responsive environmental settings.		A/S							
Understand the biological basis and attributes of personal space, territory, home range, home base and how they affect human behaviour.		A/S							
Understand how human behaviour and the perception and use of space is influenced by culture					A/S				
Understand the issues of cross-cultural design in public spaces.									
Understand the constituents of the phenomenal environment (human, physical and experiential) and how they affect and are affected by human behaviour.									
Apply the understanding of human behaviour to the planning and design of use relationships, circulation and general organization of site plans.		A/P			A/P				
Design and Planning Theory									
Develop an indepth understanding of design theory and "principles" in the discipline of landscape architecture.		U/S							
Have the ability to apply and evaluate design theory and principles in landscape design problems.					A/P				
Apply a range of approaches (conceptual, perceptual and analytical) to describe and design solutions.		A/S							
Understand the role of the range of public and private stakeholders in the planning and design of sites.		U/S			U/P				
Attain a proficiency in understanding landscapes and applying design ideas three dimensionally.									
Attain a proficiency in understanding and applying design ideas in the 4th dimension - time. in the 4th dimension- time					A/P				
Understand the multiplicity of scale involved in design and its importance for quality in place-making, decision-making and larger planning issues.		U/P			A/P				
Understand the theories of aesthetics and beauty and be able to apply and evaluate them in the design process.		A/S			A/S				
Understand, apply and evaluate land use and transportation planning theory.		U/S			U/S				
Understand and apply land use law, regulatory techniques and policy.		A/P	UA/P		A/P				

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Understand the importance of creative thinking and problem solving in the design process (the actions of seeing, thinking and doing) and be able to apply it in design solutions.		A/S			A/S				
Understand regional landscape planning theory, methods, and applications and then apply them on real projects.		A/P	UA/P		A/S				
Understand how to integrate a variety of regional landscape planning project scales, from broad to site-specific.		U/P			A/P				
Understand the design process.		U/S			A/S				
Possess the ability to critically assess a design problem and apply the design process to develop a creative and functional product.		A/P			A/P				
Understand land use relationships and have the ability to apply this understanding in the execution of site plans		U/P	UA/S		A/P				
Understand and be able to apply principles of pedestrian and vehicular circulation		U/P			A/P				
Site Design and Engineering									
Understand and have the ability to apply site planning and design methodologies at the full range of scales.		U/S			U/S				
Understand the process of developing a design program and have the ability to apply it to a site.		UP			A/P				
Understand and have the ability to apply site engineering and construction processes, materials and methods to a site.		U/S							
Understand local codes and building standards.		U/S	U/S		U/S				
Have the capability to analyze programs and landscapes- discern the essential problem or problems to be solved		U/S	A/P		EA/P				
Understand emerging areas in site engineering including on-site storm water management, bioengineering for erosion control and bioremediation.					U/S				
Understand and apply principles of site grading and drainage					U/S				
Understand and apply principles of surface hydrology		U/S			U/S				
Understand and apply production of grading, drainage, and stormwater plans					U/S				
Communication									
Competence to conceptualize, portray and evaluate ideas graphically.		E/S			A/P				
Ability to convey ideas logically and persuasively through writing (application).			E/P						
Understand proper citation and style formats and be able to apply them in written and visual documents			A/P						
Understand how to convey ideas through verbal communication and apply it.					A/P				
Understand the theories of public participation and apply them in									
Understand and apply the model-making process.									
Understand theories of negotiation and apply them in appropriate situations.		A/S			A/S				
Understand and have the ability to apply the examination, organization and representation of information.			A/P		A/S				
Understand various methods of visualizing information and be able to apply the conventions of landscape architectural representation.					A/S				
Research Skills									
Understand and be able to apply :					A/S				
- various research methodologies.			A/P		A/S				
- methods of data collection and management			A/P		A/S				
- methods of data analysis			A/P		A/S				
- processes of critical thinking			A/P		A/S				
Develop a research idea, question, and research protocol			A/P						
Develop the ability to manage and budget time.			A/P						
Technologies									
Have a working understanding of CAD.					U/S				
Have a working understanding of GIS and be able to apply it to solving planning problems					U/S				
Have a working understanding of other digital imaging programs and be able to apply them to the graphic communication goals.		A/S			A/S				
History and Criticism									
Develop an understanding of visual landscape change related to human action throughout history.									
Understand the historical development of the landscape in the Intermountain West. (Note: new course)									

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Understand the development of landscape and planning theories, their roots and their evolution through time.									
Evaluate landscape design within the broader context of historical change as affected by cultural, political, social and economic movements.									
Develop a vocabulary of design styles and elements based on historical antecedents.		A/P			P/U				
Understand the history, workings, and significance of the public lands in the western US.									
Understand and apply critical thinking and analysis.		A/S	UA/P						
Understand, analyze, evaluate the important literature in the profession									
Understand and evaluate the planning and design of built works		ES							
Values and Ethics									
Have a clear understanding of professional practice norms and standards		U/S	U/S		U/S				
Understand the historical evolution of a land ethic.			U/S						
Evaluate the application and theories of environmental ethics.			EA/P						
Develop and apply skills in communicating with other professionals.		U/S	A/P		U/S				
Understand, apply and evaluate land use law, regulatory techniques and policy.		A/P	UAE/P		A/S				
Understanding of how to apply project management skills.		U/S							