Landscape architects steward our natural resources through sustainable planning, design, development, and management of our environment, both built and natural. With knowledge in arts, sciences, and technology, landscape architects meet the needs of society through planning design while protecting the environment.

Most landscape architects earn either an accredited Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) or a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA) which requires between four and five years of study. Or, they earn an accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) in three years after completing undergraduate studies in an allied, or unrelated, field. Plan to work as an intern or apprentice under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect from one to four years prior to taking the LA Exam. Pursue part-time work at landscape design firms, garden centers, nurseries or public gardens/parks to gain related experience.

Prepare to take courses on topics including landscape design, plant sciences, soil sciences, ecology, sustainability, construction technology, and graphic communication methods (analog and digital). Geographic Information Systems (GIS), model building, and video simulation are also used in the field. Join the student chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Develop strong communication skills for consulting with clients, giving presentations, and collaborating with other professionals including civil engineers, city planners, architects, contractors, etc. Demonstrate creativity, critical thinking, craftsmanship, and time and project management skills for success in the field. Expect to work evenings and weekends as required to meet deadlines.

Most landscape architects earn either an accredited Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) or a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA) which require between four and five years of study. Or, one can earn an accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) in three years after completing undergraduate studies in a related or unrelated field. Plan to work as an intern or apprentice under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect from one to four years prior to taking the LA Exam. Pursue part-time work with a landscape design firm, landscape contractor, public agency, nonprofit organization, or public garden.

Prepare to take courses on topics including landscape design, plant sciences, soil sciences, ecology, sustainability, construction technology, and graphic communication methods (analog and digital). Geographic Information Systems (GIS), model building, and video simulation are also used in the field. Join the student chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

Develop strong communication skills for consulting with clients, giving presentations, and collaborating with other professionals including civil engineers, city planners, architects, contractors, etc. Demonstrate creativity, critical thinking, craftsmanship, and time and project management skills for success in the field. Expect to work evenings and weekends as required to meet deadlines.

Most landscape architects specialize over time in practice areas within the public or private sectors.