

URI BACHELOR of LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM (BLA)

Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredited programs are required to provide reliable information to the public. Programs report on accreditation status and program performance. See information below. This information is posted to help potential students make informed application decisions. For more information on URI Landscape Architecture visit: <https://web.uri.edu/espd/academics/bla/>

ACCREDITATION

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Degree is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) of the American Society of Landscape Architecture. The BLA Program received a full undergraduate program accreditation in March 2024 and will next be reviewed in 2026.

For Annual Tuition and Fees for Full-Time and Part-Time Students visit:

<https://web.uri.edu/enrollment/tuition-and-fees/>

STUDENT GRADUATION RATES

Students entering landscape architecture as freshmen typically graduate in 4 years. Students who transfer into the BLA program as sophomores graduate in 3-years.

Academic Year	Students enrolled in LAR 243	Graduating	Retention Rate from first studio	Graduation rate within 4 years of LAR 243	BLA degree awarded
2025-2026	22	21	95%	100%	21
2024-2025	20	19	95%	95%	19
2023-2024	20	19	95%	100%	19
2022-2023	22	19	82%	94%	18
2021-2022	16	12	75%	82%	12

PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the University of Rhode Island Landscape Architecture Program is to educate future landscape architects through a professional, accredited Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree that integrates STEM and the fine arts within a studio- and project-based learning environment. The program emphasizes regenerative systems, coastal resilience, working landscapes, participatory community planning, and community-engaged design, preparing graduates to become innovative designers, planners, and stewards of the built and natural environment.

As Rhode Island's only accredited landscape architecture program, we advance the University's land- and sea-grant mission by engaging students in collaborative projects with municipalities, nonprofit organizations, state agencies, professional practitioners, and community stakeholders to address real- world environmental and community challenges. Through inclusive, student-centered education, students develop their individual design voice while building technical competence, critical thinking skills, professional judgment, and a strong sense of ethical and environmental responsibility.

Landscape Architecture fosters a collaborative, studio-based learning community that combines individualized mentoring, interdisciplinary collaboration, and close engagement with faculty, peers, clients, and community partners. Graduates are prepared to address the pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges facing communities through creative, evidence-based, and resilient design solutions.

ACADEMIC GOALS of the PROGRAM

The University of Rhode Island Landscape Architecture Program is committed to preparing graduates who are creative, ethical, and technically proficient professionals capable of improving the environmental, social, and cultural well-being of communities. The program advances this mission through the following academic goals:

- **Prepare students for professional practice and leadership** in landscape architecture and related disciplines through a rigorous, accredited design education.
- **Foster interdisciplinary learning and collaboration** by engaging students with faculty, clients, community stakeholders, public agencies, and allied professions to address real-world environmental and community challenges.
- **Develop creative problem-solvers** who apply design thinking, scientific knowledge, and emerging technologies to projects ranging from site design to regional planning.
- **Promote environmental stewardship, resilience, and regenerative design** by integrating ecological systems, climate adaptation, and sustainable practices throughout the curriculum.
- **Cultivate global perspectives, cultural competence, and civic engagement** through community partnerships, international learning opportunities, and experiences that prepare students to work effectively in diverse professional and cultural settings.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES of the PROGRAM

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture curriculum provides a structured, sequential, and professionally accredited education that prepares graduates with the knowledge, skills, and professional values required for contemporary landscape architecture practice.

I. Professional Knowledge: Students develop a comprehensive understanding of:

- Landscape architecture history, theory, and precedent
- Design principles and processes
- Cultural and natural systems
- Ecology and environmental processes
- Plants, materials, and construction methods
- Professional practice, ethics, and contemporary issues affecting the profession

II. Design Thinking and Problem Solving: Students learn to:

- Apply critical thinking and evidence-based decision making
- Conduct site inventory, analysis, and program development
- Generate creative and innovative design solutions
- Work across multiple scales, from individual sites to regions
- Integrate ecological, cultural, technical, and community considerations into the design process

III. Professional and Technical Skills: Students gain proficiency in:

- Site planning and construction documentation
- Grading, drainage, circulation, and landscape technologies
- Physical and digital modeling
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS), CAD, drones, and emerging technologies
- Professional portfolio development and visual communication

IV. Communication and Collaboration: Students develop the ability to:

- Communicate ideas effectively through drawing, graphics, digital media, writing, and oral presentation
- Collaborate productively with clients, community members, and interdisciplinary teams
- Engage stakeholders through participatory design and public presentations

V. Environmental Ethics and Community Engagement: Students develop an understanding of:

- Ecological stewardship and regenerative design
- Climate resilience and sustainable communities
- Cultural landscapes and sense of place
- Environmental justice, equity, and inclusive design
- Professional responsibility and ethical decision making
- Community engagement and public service

VI. Personal and Professional Development: Students graduate with the ability to:

- Think independently and creatively
- Demonstrate professionalism and leadership
- Work collaboratively in diverse teams
- Respect diverse cultures, perspectives, and lived experiences
- Engage in lifelong learning and continued professional growth