

A Proposal for a Creation of a Landscape Architecture Minor

A. PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Name of institution

University of Rhode Island

2. Name of department, division, school or college

Landscape Architecture
College of Arts and Sciences

**3. Title of proposed program and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code
Minor in Landscape Architecture (Revision)**

**4. Intended initiation date of program change. Include anticipated date for granting first
degrees or certificates, if appropriate.**

Initiation date
First degree date: 2016-2017

5. Intended location of the program

Department of Landscape Architecture

6. Description of institutional review and approval process

Department
College
CAC/Graduate Council
Faculty Senate
President of the University

Approval Date
February 14, 2016

7. Summary description of proposed program (not to exceed 2 pages)

The Landscape Architecture Department has seen a growing number of students inquire about how to obtain a minor in the discipline. For years the department has offered a minor in Landscape Architecture to students at URI, but it was never listed as a university approved minor. The existing minor has satisfied all of the requirements listed in the course catalog for minor degrees. Students were approved for a minor if they passed 18 credits from a list of required and elective classes from the following course codes CPL, LAR, PLS and ART, all class approved under the LAR curriculum. In recent years the department has moved from CELS to Arts and Sciences and the focus within the profession has changed. As a result, we have revised our minor by removing some classes, deemed less relevant in today's world, and replaced them with other classes considered more relevant. Some of those classes are offered through departments whose course codes include: BIO, GEO, and NRS. We have updated our description and the minor form that is used for keeping track of progress and

student performance. As part of this process, we have received permission from each of the non-LAR departments to include their courses in our minor.

8. Signature of the President

David M. Dooley

9. Person to contact during the proposal review

Name: Will Green

Address: 201 Rodman Hall, 94 West Alumni Ave. Kingston, 02881

Phone: 874-2142

Email: wagre@uri.edu

10. Signed agreements for any cooperative arrangements made with other institutions/agencies or private companies in support of the program.

Three emails are included indicating chair endorsements for including particular courses in the minor.

B. RATIONALE: There should be a demonstrable need for the program.

1. Explain and quantify the needs addressed by this program, and present evidence that the program fulfills these needs.

The program currently exists and attracts 5 - 10 students from across campus per year. The courses are all offered and this requires a minimal amount of work to advise and sign the forms. Majority of responsibility rests with the students.

C. INSTITUTIONAL ROLE: The program should be clearly related to the published role and mission of the institution and be compatible with other programs and activities of the institution.

1. Explain how the program is consistent with the published role and mission of the institution and how it is related to the institution's academic planning.

The Landscape Architecture BLA program is already an accredited program within the university and the College of Arts and Sciences.

D. **INTERINSTITUTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The program should be consistent with all policies of the Board of Governors pertaining to the coordination and collaboration between public institutions of higher education. (Consult the Board of Governors' *Coordination Plan for Academic Programs in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education* [www.ribghe.org/publicreg.htm] for guidelines and restrictions regarding the types and levels of programs the institutions are allowed to offer.)

1. Estimate the projected impact of program on other public higher education institutions in Rhode Island (e.g. loss of students or revenues), provide a rationale for the assumptions made in the projections, and indicate the manner in which the other public institutions were consulted in developing the projections.

The minor will have no negative impact on students or faculty. If anything, courses may have a few additional students enrolled in them.

2. Using the format prescribed by RIOHE, describe provisions for transfer students (into or out of the program) at other Rhode Island public institutions of higher education. Describe any transfer agreements with independent institutions. The institution must also either submit a Joint Admissions Agreement transition plan or the reason(s) the new program is not transferable. (See *Procedure for Strengthening the Articulation/Transfer Component of the Review Process for New Programs* which can be found at www.ribghe.org/publicreg.htm.)

NA - Students enrolled at URI will be able to take classes within the minor and will qualify for a minor, when satisfying the criteria listed in the course catalog.

3. Describe any cooperative arrangements with institutions offering similar programs. (Signed copies of any agreements pertaining to use of faculty, library, equipment, and facilities should be attached.)

NA

4. If external affiliations are required, identify providing agencies. (Indicate the status of any arrangements made and append letters of agreement, if appropriate.)

NA

5. Indicate whether the program will be available to students under the New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) Regional Student Program (RSP).

NA

E. **PROGRAM:** The program should meet a recognized educational need and be delivered in an appropriate mode.

1. Prepare a typical curriculum display for one program cycle for each sub-major, specialty or option, including the following information:

- a. Name of courses, departments, and catalog numbers and brief descriptions for new courses, preferably as these will appear in the catalog. In keeping with each institution's timetable for completion of student outcomes assessment, each institution should provide an assessment plan detailing what a student should know and be able to do at of the program and how the skills and knowledge will be assessed. For example, if a department brings forth a new program proposal but that department is not slated to have its student outcomes assessment completed until 2008, the program could be approved but with the provision that the department return no later than 2008 and present to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee its student outcomes for that particular program.**

There are no new courses being developed for the minor. Only courses that are on the books and offered by the departments of LAR (CPL), BIO, GEO, and NRS are included in the minor.

- b. Required courses in area of specialization and options, if any.**

LAR201 - Survey of Landscape Architecture (3cr),
LAR202 - Origins of Landscape Architecture (3cr)
LAR353 - Landscape Plants 1 (3cr)

- c. Course distribution requirements, if any, within program, and general education requirements. NA**
- d. Total number of free electives available after specialization and general education requirements are satisfied. NA**
- e. Total number of credits required for completion of program or for graduation. Present evidence that the program is of appropriate length as illustrated by conformity with appropriate accrediting agency standards, applicable industry standards, or other credible measure, and comparability of lengths with similar programs in the state or region.**

The minor fulfills all of the requirements as indicated in the course catalog: 18 credits and no more than 6 credits below 200 level.

- f. Identify any courses that will be delivered or received by way of distance learning. (Refer to www.ribghe.org/publicreg.htm for the *Standards for Distance Learning in the Rhode Island System of Public Higher Education*.)**

It is possible that student may take LAR 201 as a distance learning class, provided that the student is able to sign up before the class student limit is reached. There is also a traditional lecture format course offering in the fall with 90 seats available.

2. **Describe certification/licensing requirements, if any, for program graduates and the degree to which completion of the required course work meets said requirements. Indicate the agencies and timetables for graduates to meet those requirements. NA**
3. **Include the learning goals (what students are expected to gain, achieve, know, or demonstrate by completion of the program) and requirements for each program.**

Students are exposed to concepts, principals, and examples of landscape architecture design. They are shown landscape installations in urban, suburban and rural settings. They learn about landscape materials and practices and are instructed about the cultural applications relating to plants and their environments. Students are encouraged to meet with the program adviser or course instructors to develop a plan that fulfills each student's program needs.

4. **Demonstrate that student learning is assessed based on clear statements of learning outcomes and expectations.**

Each course includes statements about objectives and learning outcomes as required by the department and accreditation standards.

- F. FACULTY AND STAFF: The faculty and support staff for the program should be sufficient in number and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and other attributes necessary to the success of the program.**

1. **Describe the faculty who will be assigned to the program. Indicate total full-time equivalent (FTE) positions required for the program, the proportion of program faculty who will be in tenure-track positions, and whether faculty positions will be new positions or reassignment of existing positions.**

The existing faculty (5.5 FTE's) are responsible for delivering the minor. There are no additional faculty assigned for the minor.

- G. STUDENTS: The program should be designed to provide students with a course of study that will contribute to their intellectual, social and economic well-being. Students selected should have the necessary potential and commitment to complete the program successfully.**

1. **Describe the potential students for the program and the primary source of students. Indicate the extent to which the program will attract new students or will draw students from existing programs and provide a specific rationale for these assumptions. For graduate programs, indicate which undergraduate programs would be a potential source of students.**

The minor will attract students looking to build knowledge and provide a concentration that can enhance their careers and job searches. The minor is not intended to compete with majors, but to enrich their education and provide an additional credential.

- L. EVALUATION: Appropriate criteria for evaluating the success of a program should be development and used.**

- 1. List the performance measures by which the institution plans to evaluate the program. Indicate the frequency of measurement and the personnel responsible for performance measurements. Describe provisions made for external evaluation, as appropriate.**

The chairman of the Department will keep track of the numbers of students signing up for the minor in LAR as a way of measuring student interest. As the BLA program is already reviewed through an accreditation process, most recently in October 2015 and approved for reaccreditation in February 2016, the classes are already reviewed by external evaluators (Learning outcome review), and this process will continue.

University of Rhode Island

Landscape Architecture

Minor Field of Study

The minor in Landscape Architecture is for students who wish to expand their knowledge of the discipline of landscape architecture and to learn how human interventions impact the landscape. The minor requires a total of 18 credits, 9 of which are required with the remainder coming from selected elective courses.

LAR 201, LAR 202 and LAR 353 are the required core courses for the minor. In addition to these courses, completion of 9 credits of elective courses is required in consultation with the landscape architecture minor advisor. Courses include: BIO 262; CPL 450; GEO 120; LAR 302; LAR491/492; and NRS 100 and 300. These elective courses cannot be simultaneously counted toward a major. Major classes may be used as part of the minor if the student is not pursuing that particular major.

Interested students should contact Professor Will Green 201 Rodman Hall 401.874.2142 or wagre@uri.edu.

Hi, Will -

The BIO undergraduate committee has met and approved your request to add BIO 262 as part of your LAR minor. Best -

Evan Preisser
Chair, BIO Undergraduate Committee

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Evan Preisser, Associate Professor
Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Rhode Island
9 E. Alumni Ave., Kingston RI 02881 USA
(401) 874-2120; preisser@uri.edu; <http://web.uri.edu/preisserlab>

Dear Will,

In my capacity as Chair of the Department of Natural Resources Science I have reviewed the proposal for a minor in Landscape Architecture and fully support the inclusion of NRS 100 and NRS 300 into the minor.

Best wishes.

Art Gold, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair

Arthur J Gold Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Dept of Natural Resources Science
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881
agold@uri.edu
401 874 2903

Dear Will:

I think it's a marvelous idea! I'm not in a position to "approve" anything that another department suggests, but we surely support the choice, and I think we would look forward to seeing any of

your students that care to come our way. The fact is, GEO never turns down the opportunity to see more students, and so we're excited to see some different faces in our classes.

Thanks for thinking of us!

Cheers,

- David

David E. Fastovsky, Ph.D.,
Professor and Chair,
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University of Rhode Island
9 East Alumni Ave.,
Kingston, RI 02881 USA
[401-874-2185](tel:401-874-2185) (office)
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http://cels.uri.edu/geo/GEO_ProfileView.aspx?id=8

On Thu, Feb 25, 2016 at 6:01 PM, William Green <wagre@uri.edu> wrote:

Hi David,

Hope you are enjoying the semester. I am assuming that you are around this semester. The reason for the note is that I decided to revise our minor in landscape architecture. In so doing, I have removed some of our elective classes and I am replacing them with others. There is a class in your department, GEO120 - The Geology of U.S. National Parks, that I would like to add to our list of acceptable classes. We think it would fit nicely within the 18 credit minor, and we need your permission / department permission to use this class which will be an attractive option. Please, let me know if you and the department can approve this. I suspect that it won't add many students to your classes, but it might make our minor a little more appealing or might better reflect our interests.

I am attaching the draft forms and ask you to look them over and either ask a question or two, approve the request, or you know the last option.

Thanks,

Will

University of Rhode Island

Landscape Architecture

Minor Field of Study

Minor field of study approval for landscape architecture is granted to

Student: _____ ID# _____ Student's Major Code: _____

Total number of Credits needed for a Minor in Landscape Architecture is 18cr.

The courses completed for this minor are indicated below:

A. Course	Course Title	Credits	Grade
LAR 201	Survey of Landscape Architecture (3cr)	_____	_____
LAR 202	Origins of Landscape Architecture (3cr)	_____	_____
LAR 353	Landscape Plants 1 (3cr)	_____	_____
Select 3 classes from group B			
B. BIO 262	Introduction to Ecology (3cr)	_____	_____
CPL 450	Urban Design (3 cr)	_____	_____
GEO 120	Geology of U.S. National Parks (3cr)	_____	_____
LAR 302	GIS for Landscape Architecture (3cr)	_____	_____
LAR 491/492	Special Projects in Landscape Architecture (1-3cr)	_____	_____
NRS 100	Natural Resource Conservation (3cr)	_____	_____
NRS 300	Intro. to Global Issues in Sustain. Development (3cr)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Credits:		_____	

Please note that other classes may be substituted upon receiving permission of your adviser and the program administrator.

LAR Adviser / Department Chair - Signature _____ Date _____

Arts and Sciences Dean - Signature _____ Date _____

