



BACHELOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION + GUIDE

Department of Landscape Architecture
College of Built Environments
University of Washington

Autumn 2020

BLA CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION + GUIDE

CONTENTS:

Introduction	page 3
Course Requirements	
Credit Requirements	
Typical Sequence	
BLA Studio Requirements Policy	
BLA Curriculum Description	page 6

IMPORTANT CONTACTS + RESOURCES

Undergraduate Program Adviser:	Nick Dreher (ndreher@uw.edu)
Department Chair:	Ken Yocom (kyocom@uw.edu)
Department Website:	larch.be.uw.edu
Department Student Resources + Forms:	larch.be.uw.edu/student-resources
UW Course Catalog:	washington.edu/students/crscat
UW Time Schedule:	washington.edu/students/timeschd

DISCLAIMER:

The department reserves the right to create new or adjust existing procedures and policies based on current conditions.

INTRODUCTION

The University of Washington Department of Landscape Architecture offers a fully accredited professional Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree program that empowers students with the education and skills in urban ecological design to address emerging challenges in our built environments. Refer to the department website to learn more regarding our focus on urban ecological design: larch.be.uw.edu/about/urban-ecological-design.

This guide covers course requirements to complete the BLA degree. Students should refer to the *BLA Program Guide* for information on advising resources, evaluation and grading, low scholarship and performance policies and resources at the department, college and university level.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are two types of courses you need to complete to receive your BLA degree:

(1) General education requirements and prerequisites

When you enter the BLA program, you are expected to have already completed 70 credits, including general education requirements and prerequisites.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

English Composition	5cr
Quantitative & Symbolic Reasoning	4-5cr
Diversity	3cr
Writing (LARCH 352 + LARCH 353 fulfill requirement)	10cr
Areas of Knowledge	
VLPA (Visual, Literary and Performing Arts)	20cr
LARCH 300 counts toward this total	
I&S (Individuals and Societies)	20cr
NW (Natural World) (one class to fulfill prereq for ESS 315 recommended)	20cr

NOTE: LARCH 300 and other LARCH courses not required for the BLA degree may count for Areas of Knowledge

BLA PREREQUISITES

1) LARCH 300 Intro Landscape Arch Design Studio	Aut or Sum	6 cr
2) Two of the following courses:		
LARCH 322 Intro to Planting Design	Spring	3cr
LARCH 341 Site Planning + Design	Autumn	3cr
LARCH 352 History of Landscape Arch	Autumn	5cr
LARCH 353 Modern History of Landscape Arch	Winter	5cr
LARCH 361 Human Experience of Place	Winter	3cr
LARCH 363 Ecological Design + Planning	Spring	3cr

Please refer to the UW Student Guide section on the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (www.washington.edu/students/gencat/academic/larch.html) for details. If you have not fulfilled the General Education requirements or BLA prerequisites prior to being admitted the BLA program, you will need to fit these into your schedule while in the program. Meet with the Undergraduate Academic Adviser during your first quarter in the BLA program to create a plan and timeline for meeting all graduation requirements.

(2) BLA degree requirements

BLA degree requirements represent the core sequence of classes necessary to attain a professional Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree. Course requirements are shown on the **BLA Degree Requirements Checklist** at the end of this document. Your studies within the BLA program focus on landscape architecture theory, history, technical skills, related studies and studio courses.

Studio courses form the core of the program and are where ideas, concepts, and technical skills are developed and translated through a design thinking approach to education and learning. These studios often engage and work directly with local communities. The culminating capstone studio for the program is a design/build project that draws on all that is taught in the previous terms of the program.

The BLA curriculum is divided into 8 topics areas. Descriptions and requirements are listed by topic area:

- Studio
- Plants
- Graphics / Media
- History
- Construction
- Theory and Skills
- Directed Electives
- Open Electives

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

The BLA degree requires 182 credits. Some courses may fulfill both general education requirements and prerequisites, and some BLA degree requirements can simultaneously fulfill Writing or Diversity general education requirements. BLA course requirements can often overlap with a minor. Overlaps give you more flexibility in choosing courses within or outside the department to enrich your knowledge and skills. Consider taking open electives including LARCH 476 Professional Operations (Internship), special offerings in the department (typically LARCH 498), or courses that would support a minor.

TYPICAL SEQUENCE

The standard timeline for BLA students is 9 quarters (or three years). However, students who enter the program with significant progress toward general education and degree requirements already complete may pursue an accelerated 7-quarter (two years plus one summer term) course sequence. Charts at the end of this guide illustrate these options. When you enter the program, the Undergraduate Program Adviser will discuss which sequence makes the most sense for you. You need to remain in sequence, as all landscape architecture and several directed elective courses are offered only once each academic year.

BLA CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

This policy outlines curriculum requirements for the professional Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree. In rare circumstances, some requirements may be waived based on previous academic and/or professional experience. Students should meet with the Undergraduate Program Adviser in the first term in the program to determine eligibility for specific curriculum waiver requests.

STUDIO

7 courses (42 credits) required

LARCH 401 Design Foundations Studio	Autumn	6 cr
LARCH 402 Urban Sites Studio	Winter	6 cr
LARCH 403 Ecological Systems Studio	Spring	6 cr
LARCH 404 Advanced Studio I	Autumn	6 cr
LARCH 405 Advanced Studio II	Winter	6 cr
LARCH 474 Design Build I	Winter	6 cr
LARCH 475 Design Build II	Spring	6 cr

FOUNDATION STUDIOS (401, 402, 403)

In the initial year of the program, students are required to take a studio each term to fulfill the basic core curriculum. These studios are taken with incoming three-year MLA students. These foundational studios introduce the development of design processes and technical skills as core knowledge for subsequent advanced studios. As stated, these studios are foundational to the program and may not be replaced by other studio courses.

ADVANCED STUDIOS (404, 405)

In the second and third years of the program, students are required to take two approved Advanced Studio courses (LARCH 404, 405). Advanced Studios can focus on topics such as neighborhood design, cultural landscapes, ecological urbanism, design activism, community design, landscape urbanism and landscape + art. Students in the accelerated sequence must take one of these studios during the summer term before their second year in the program to stay on track for graduation. This summer studio is typically offered as LARCH 407.

Students may replace one (but not both) of these studios with another studio offering similar content. Other studios may include study abroad, BE studios, studios taught by other CBE departments or relevant studios offered elsewhere in the university. **See below for process for requesting a replacement studio.**

NOTE: BE Studios and study abroad studios in which at least one of the instructors is a landscape architecture faculty member are considered LA Advanced Studios.

DESIGN-BUILD CAPSTONE STUDIOS (474, 475)

LARCH 474 (Design Build I) and 475 (Design Build II) studios form the BLA capstone, a design-build studio in which students work with a real client to design and build a landscape. These studios engage students in projects that advance and refine their professional skills, typically with community clients. LARCH 475 integrates and applies the prior years' evolving professional skills toward a tangible place. This studio series is required for all BLA majors and may not be replaced even by other design-build studios. Information on these studios can be found on the website: <http://larch.be.uw.edu/portfolio/designbuild/>.

These studios are taken in sequence in a students' final two terms as a BLA (third year for 9-quarter students; second year for 7-quarter students).

In some years, the project scale or the client schedule is such that the BLA capstone project is limited to a single term. In these years, LARCH 474 is not offered and students must replace this studio with an approved replacement studio, such as study abroad or an interdisciplinary college-wide BE studio offering similar content. Students are still required to take LARCH 475 during their final spring term.

REQUESTING A REPLACEMENT STUDIO

Students have the option to replace one (but not both) of their advanced studios (404, 405). Refer above if requesting a replacement for LARCH 474.

To request a replacement studio, students must submit a complete curriculum petition and a syllabus or course description for the replacement studio to the Undergraduate Program Adviser no later than week 6 of the preceding quarter. Previously accepted replacement studios include graduate LARCH studios, BE studios, CEP 498 Planning Studio or ENVIR 480 Sustainability Studio. Contact the Undergraduate Program Adviser if you have questions about a course's eligibility as a replacement studio.

ADDITIONAL STUDIOS

Students may (and are encouraged to) take additional studios during quarters when there is not a required BLA studio.

HISTORY

2 courses (8-10 credits) required

LARCH 352 History of Landscape Architecture	Autumn	5 cr
LARCH 353 History of Modern Landscape Architecture	Winter	5 cr

All BLA students are required to take two landscape history courses. The objectives of this requirement are to examine the foundations to the leading edge of theory and scholarship within the field and discipline. LARCH 352 is offered every autumn quarter; LARCH 353 is offered every winter quarter. These courses are open to non-majors and can be taken as BLA program prerequisites. These courses do not need to be taken in sequence. BLA students may substitute one of these courses with another landscape history course. Acceptable alternatives include LARCH 454 History of Urban Landscapes and Environments (offered alternating spring quarters) and the Rome study abroad history option.

NOTE: alternative courses are not offered regularly and typically do not fulfill the general education Writing requirement.

THEORY

3 courses (9 credits) required

LARCH 341 Site Design and Planning	Autumn	3 cr
LARCH 361 Human Experience of Place	Winter	3 cr
LARCH 363 Ecological Design and Planning	Spring	3 cr

All BLA students are required to take the landscape theory sequence 341, 361 and 363. These courses should be completed by the end of a student's first year in the program. These courses are open to non-majors and may be taken as BLA program prerequisites.

MEDIA/GRAPHICS

3 courses (9 credits) required

LARCH 411 Landscape Representation	Autumn	3 cr
LARCH 440 Digital Media I	Winter	3 cr
LARCH 441 Digital Media II	Autumn	3 cr

All BLA students are required to take the landscape media/graphics sequence 411, 440 and 441. These courses should be completed in sequence. For exceptions, contact the Undergraduate Program Adviser.

LARCH 411 LANDSCAPE REPRESENTATION | 3 cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this class are to develop skills in hand graphics, composition and layout, documenting and conveying information about landscapes, introduction to Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign) and Sketchup as design tools, and to learn basic conventions for representation in landscape architecture.

Waiver Requirement: demonstrated proficiency in hand graphics, measured drawings, communicating information, and basic proficiency in Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign) and Sketchup.

LARCH 440 DIGITAL MEDIA I | 3cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this class are to develop skills in the basic disciplinary digital programs for representation and design. Students must have taken or waived LARCH 411 Landscape Representation prior to taking LARCH 440.

Waiver Requirements: demonstrated proficiency in Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign), ArcGIS, Rhinoceros 3D and use of the CBE laser cutter.

LARCH 441 DIGITAL MEDIA II | 3cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this class are to continue development of skills in digital programs for representation and design. Students must have taken or waived LARCH 440 Digital Media I prior to taking LARCH 441. LARCH 441 should be taken prior to LARCH 433 Design Implementation.

Waiver Requirement (general): demonstrated proficiency in Rhinoceros 3D, Grasshopper and AutoCAD.

Waiver Requirements (for students in study abroad program in Autumn): Students who are unable to take LARCH 441 in sequence because of participation in an autumn study abroad program may substitute LARCH 441 with an approved sequence of online courses. **Substitution with online courses is ONLY available to students who are abroad during autumn quarter AND who have been approved by the Undergraduate Program Adviser.**

The Undergraduate Program Adviser must approve all requests for waiver prior to the beginning of the Autumn quarter. Following completion of the online courses, the student must submit a curriculum petition and evidence of completed courses/coursework to the Undergraduate Program Adviser. All costs and other requirements associated with taking online courses are the responsibility of the student. Detailed information for waiver requirements is available from the Undergraduate Program Adviser. The requirements of the online courses may change on short notice if there are changes to their curriculum.

Required online courses and proficiency evidence:

- McNeel Level 1 - Intro to 3D Modeling with Rhinoceros 5 for Windows [24hrs (online) - 39 hrs (on demand)]
- McNeel Level 2 - Advanced 3D Modeling in Rhinoceros 5 for Windows (20hrs)
- McNeel Introduction to Grasshopper for Rhinoceros 5 for Windows (12 hrs)
- Required evidence of proficiency in AutoCAD.

CONSTRUCTION

4 courses (12 credits) required

LARCH 431 Grading and Drainage	Autumn	3 cr
LARCH 432 Materials, Craft, and Construction	Autumn	3 cr
LARCH 433 Design Implementation	Winter	3 cr
LARCH 434 Urban Soils and Hydrology	Spring	3 cr

All BLA students are required to take the landscape construction sequence 431, 432, 433, 434. These courses should be completed in sequence. Completion of the Media/Graphics sequence is required before taking LARCH 433. For exceptions, contact the Undergraduate Program Adviser.

LARCH 431 LANDFORM GRADING AND DRAINAGE | 3 cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this course are to provide basic proficiency in landform manipulation. LARCH 431 should be taken prior to LARCH 432, LARCH 433 and LARCH 434.

Waiver requirements: demonstrated proficiency in site grading and drainage concepts and documentation.

LARCH 432 MATERIALS, CRAFT, AND CONSTRUCTION | 3 cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this course are to engage design criteria and construction techniques. LARCH 432 should be taken prior to LARCH 433 and LARCH 434.

Waiver requirements: demonstrated proficiency in construction materials and methods including a clear understanding of material properties for common materials used in landscape.

LARCH 433 DESIGN IMPLEMENTATION | 3 cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this course are to provide basic proficiency in AutoCAD and construction documentation. Students should complete LARCH 431, LARCH 432 and LARCH 441 prior to taking this course.

Waiver requirements: demonstrated proficiency in AutoCAD and construction documentation including plans, details, and specifications.

LARCH 434 URBAN SOILS AND HYDROLOGY SELECTIVE | 3 cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this course are to provide basic understanding and skills needed by landscape architects to implement design solutions that manipulate urban hydrological conditions. Students should complete LARCH 433 prior to taking LARCH 434.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE*3 credits required*

LARCH 473 Professional Practice	Winter	3 cr
---------------------------------	--------	------

LARCH 473 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE | 3 cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this class are to provide foundational knowledge for how the professional field is structured and operates.

Waiver Requirement: evidence of employment in a professional design office for no less than 12 months.

PLANTS / PLANTING DESIGN*3 courses (9-13 credits) required*

LARCH 423 Plant Identification + Management	Spr	3 cr
LARCH 424 Advanced Planting Design	Aut or Spr	3 cr
Plants Elective		3-5 cr

LARCH 423 PLANT IDENTIFICATION + MANAGEMENT | 3 cr

All BLA students are required to take one course in plant identification and management. Beginning in 2020, the Department offers LARCH 423 to complete this requirement. Students can also complete approved alternatives listed below.

Waiver Requirements: employment in a nursery for at least 12 months and previous coursework on plant classification.

Approved Alternatives:

ESRM 331	Landscape Plant Identification (3) credits	offered Spring term
BIOL 317	Plant Classification and Identification (5) credits	offered Spring and Summer

LARCH 424 ADVANCED PLANTING DESIGN | 3 cr

A required course for all BLA students, the objectives of this class are to provide a fundamental knowledge of planting design, planting plants, and plant installation and management specifications. Students should complete their plant identification requirement and LARCH 403 prior to taking LARCH 424. LARCH 424 is typically offered in both the autumn and spring quarters, students may take the course either quarter.

Waiver Requirement: waivers are not allowed for this course.

PLANTS ELECTIVE | 3-5 cr

BLA students are required to take one additional upper division course (300-level or higher) in ecological restoration or plant management.

APPROVED COURSES:

Biology	BIOL	317, 331, 422, 424, 425, 441
Environmental Science and Resource Management	ESRM	323, 331, 411, 412, 428, 473, 474, 478, 479

DIRECTED ELECTIVES

5 courses in four focal areas required

The program requires five directed elective courses (minimum of 15 credits). These are divided into four categories:

- Ecology and forestry, two courses (minimum 6 credits)
- Environmental law and policy, one course (minimum 3 credits)
- Urban design and planning, one course (minimum 3 credits)
- Land / Geology, one course (minimum 3 credits)

A list of courses accepted by the department to fulfill these categories is provided to students annually. Students can find the list of accepted courses on the resources page of the department website or contact the Undergraduate Program Adviser.

A student may identify a course that is not on the approved list but appears to fit the description of the directed elective category. If a student wishes to use such a course to satisfy the requirements of a category, they can discuss the course with the Undergraduate Program Adviser. Please supply the program coordinator with a course syllabus or description.

ECOLOGY / FORESTRY | 2 courses (minimum 6 credits)

Each student is required to take 2 courses (minimum of 6 credits). Directed electives for ecology and forestry provide students with exposure to the theoretical framing, methodological approaches and applicability of research in the ecological sciences.

APPROVED COURSES:

Anthropology	ANTH	410, 488
Atmospheric Sciences	ATM S	350
Biology	BIOL	315, 317, 331, 356, 418, 422, 424, 425, 447, 449, 470, 472, 476, 480
Construction Management	CM	432
Environmental Studies	ENVIR	313, 362, 410, 415, 478
Environmental Science and Resource Management	ESRM	304, 311, 315, 323, 325, 328, 331, 350, 351, 362, 368, 400, 403, 405, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 420, 425, 426, 428, 429, 430, 433, 441, 447, 448, 450, 451, 457, 459, 461, 462, 463, 464, 468, 473, 474, 478, 479
Earth and Space Sciences	ESS	301, 305, 315, 326, 426, 427, 447, 454, 456, 475
Fisheries	FISH	312, 323, 328, 330, 428, 447, 448, 454, 455, 458, 473, 474, 478
Geography	GEOG	317, 326, 360, 438, 461

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY | 1 course (minimum 3 credits)

Each student is required to take 1 course (minimum of 3 credits). This directed elective provides student learning in legal, political, and/or transactional conditions related to the design or management of built environments.

APPROVED COURSES:

Anthropology	ANTH	459, 487
Architecture	ARCH	574
Construction Management	CM	411, 421, 423, 430, 455, 500
Economics	ECON	435, 436
Entrepreneurship	ENTRE	370
Environmental Studies	ENVIR	360, 379, 384, 415, 476, 485
Environmental Science and Resource Management	ESRM	320, 321, 371, 381, 400, 403, 421, 423, 458, 461, 465, 470, 485
Fisheries	FISH	461, 480
Geography	GEOG	370, 377, 445, 448, 467, 474, 478
Law	LAW	429, 442, 481
Real Estate	RE	350
School of Marine and Environmental Affairs	SMEA	433, 476
Urban Design and Planning	URBDP	450

URBAN DESIGN + PLANNING | 1 course (minimum 3 credits)

Each student is required to take 1 course (minimum of 3 credits). This directed elective introduces practices of city and/or regional planning beyond the site scale.

APPROVED COURSES:

Community, Environment, and Planning	CEP	470, 498
Urban Design & Planning	URBDP	300, 301, 370, 404, 405, 422, 423, 424, 429, 450, 451, 457, 466, 467, 481, 498, 499

LAND / GEOLOGY | 1 course (minimum 3 credits)

Each student is required to take a minimum of one course in geology or earth science offered through the Earth and Space Sciences Department. This directed elective supplements but does not replace LARCH 434 Urban Soils and Hydrology. These courses have a mandatory prerequisite course: one of ESS 101, ESS 105, ESS 210, or ESS 211. BLA students typically complete this prerequisite prior to entering the program.

APPROVED COURSES:

Earth and Space Science	ESS	301, 305, 315
-------------------------	-----	---------------

Note: ESS 315 is offered in winter term only and ESS 301 and 305 are offered in alternating spring terms. Please consider this in planning your schedule.

OPEN ELECTIVES

In addition to the required courses discussed in this document, students are encouraged to take elective classes to gain additional skills and experience. These courses can include additional studios (beyond the 7 required studios), internships (LARCH 476), special project courses (generally listed as LARCH 498) or research (LARCH 499). Students can take courses elsewhere in the College of Built Environments (ARCH, BE, CEP, CM, RE, URBDP) or courses offered elsewhere in the university. Open electives can be applied toward a minor or second major or for general education.

BLA TYPICAL COURSE SEQUENCE CHECKLIST (9 QUARTERS)

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON | DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
BACHELOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

BLA STANDARD SEQUENCE (9 QUARTERS OR 3 YEARS) | ENTERING IN AUTUMN 2019

LARCH COURSE PREREQUISITES (12-16 credits)		GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (minimum 72 credits)			
1	LARCH 300 Introduction to LA studio	English Composition	5		
2	Two of the following classes:	Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning	4-5		
	LARCH 322 Intro to Planning Design	Diversity	3		
	LARCH 341 Site Design and Planning	Writing (LARCH 352 & LARCH 353 fulfill reqmt.)	10		
	LARCH 352 History of Landscape Architecture	Areas of Knowledge	60		
	LARCH 353 Modern History of Landscape Architecture	VI,PA (20 credits), J & S (20 credits), and NW (20 credits, one class to fulfill pre-reqs for ESS 315/ENVR 313 or ESS 301; plant biology class recommended), LARCH 300 and LARCH courses, not required within the BLA program, may count in these areas.			
	LARCH 361 The Human Experience of Place				
	LARCH 363 Ecological Design and Planning				

TAKE CLASSES IN BOLD IN THE QUARTER LISTED; TAKE CLASSES NOT IN BOLD AS LISTED UNLESS YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN THEM AND THEN REFER TO DIRECTED ELECTIVES REQUIREMENTS:

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
AUTUMN	LARCH 401 Design Foundations Studio	WINTER	LARCH 402 Urban Sites Studio	SPRING	LARCH 403 Ecological Systems Studio
	LARCH 341 Site Design & Planning		LARCH 361 Experience of Place		LARCH 363 Ecological Design & Planning
	LARCH 411 Landscape Representation I		LARCH 440 Digital Media I		ESSM 331 / BIOL 317 Landscape Plant Recognition
	LARCH 431 Landform Grading & Drainage		Option: History or Directed Elective (esp. ESS 315)		Option: Directed Elective or Plants Elective
	Credits 15		Total Credits 15-17		Total Credits varies

AUTUMN	LARCH 404 Advanced Studio I	WINTER	LARCH 403 Advanced Studio II	SPRING	Options: Directed Electives; Internship; Minor
	LARCH 432 Landscape Construction		LARCH 433 Design Implementation		Requirements: Open Elective; Plants
	LARCH 441 Digital Media II		LARCH 473 Professional Practice		Elective; Study Abroad
	Option: History; Directed Elective; Open Elective		Option: History or Directed Elective (esp. ESS 315)		
	Total Credits 15-17		Total Credits 15-17		Total Credits varies

AUTUMN	Options: Directed Electives; Internship; Minor	WINTER	LARCH 474 Design-Build I	6	SPRING	LARCH 475 Design-Build II	6
	Requirements: Open Elective; Plants Elective; Study Abroad		Options: Directed Electives; Internship; Minor			LARCH 424 Advanced Planting Design	3
			Requirements: Open Elective; Plants Elective; Study Abroad			LARCH 434 Urban Soils and Hydrology	3
						Option: Directed Elective or Open Elective	3
	Total Credits varies		Total Credits varies			Total Credits 12-15	

updated: 7/24/2019

