

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, ARTS AND HUMANITIES
REQUESTING PROGRAM MODIFICATION
BACHELOR OF ARTS
IN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Move from Five Year to Four Year Degree Program

Submitted to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
May 15, 2014


James P. Clements, Ph.D.
President

Program contact:

Dr. Mary Padua
Chair Department of Landscape Architecture
3-109 Lee Hall, Clemson University
Clemson, SC
Ph: 864 656 3925
Email: mgpadua@clemson.edu

University Contact:

Dr. Debra B. Jackson
Vice Provost
Clemson University
dbj@clemson.edu
864-656-4592

Classification

- a) *program title*: Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (BLA)
- b) *concentrations, options, and tracks*: NA
- c) *academic unit*: College of Architecture Arts and Humanities, Department of Landscape Architecture
- d) *designation, type, and level of degree (if baccalaureate, specify four- or five-year*: BLA, Bachelors, Undergraduate (change from 5-year to 4-year program)
- e) *proposed date of implementation*: January, 2015
- f) *current CIP code of the program to be modified*: 040601
- g) *site*: Clemson University Main Campus, Clemson Architecture Center-Charleston, Genoa and Barcelona Campuses
- h) *whether the program qualifies for supplemental Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship awards*; Yes
- i) *delivery mode*; Traditional with option for blended
- j) *area of certification (only for programs that prepare teachers and other school professionals)*: NA

Institutional Approval

Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture Curriculum Committee: November 8, 2013
Chair, College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee: November 22, 2013
Chair, Clemson University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: December 6, 2013, 2013
Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture: November 8, 2013
Dean, College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities: November 22, 2013
Provost, Clemson University: January 18, 2014
President, Clemson University: January 18, 2014
Clemson University Board of Trustees: February 7, 2014

Purpose

The proposed 4-YEAR Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) program is a modification and reform to the existing 5-YEAR BLA program curriculum established in 1988. The program has sustained its accreditation by the national Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) since 1996. Its last successful accreditation occurred in 2007 with the next accreditation scheduled for Fall 2014. The proposed four-year BLA program modification reduces the total number of required credit hours from 155 to 124 credit hours. It eliminates courses that were no longer relevant, adds new courses and increases the rigor of the program through a more focused curriculum design.

The BLA program along with accredited programs leading to the Master of Landscape Architecture (three year first-professional and two-year post-professional programs established in 2005) are housed in the Department of Landscape Architecture (DoLA).

The proposed program modification is a result of faculty's ongoing monitoring and assessment of the BLA program. In 2011, the program faculty's discussion reflected a growing need to reform the BLA curriculum design, in part as it related to the number of credit hours and the length of the program. This was in response to the fact that: a) assessment data from students and industry; b) the national trend among comparable professional programs throughout the country that were adopting and/or considering four-year programs, and d) short term and long-term economic and demographic trends associated with the profession of landscape architecture and the need to shift from a five-year to a four-year program.

During the 2012 -2012 academic year, DoLA faculty deliberated the merits of a reformed curriculum design for the BLA program, in concert with the development of a draft strategic plan aligned with the University and College's Strategic Plans. The deliberations included a review of landscape architecture programs throughout the nation and the region in consultation with university colleagues, LAAB and Clemson BLA students. Finally, DoLA faculty adopted a four-year/ 124 credit hour BLA curriculum in October 2013; it retains and strengthens the program's professional course offerings, re-oriens general education requirements, and maintains its elective requirements. Credit reductions focused on professional support courses like surveying and horticulture.

The purpose of the modified program is to: a) better align the Landscape Architecture Program's curriculum and number of years of matriculation with those of all other university undergraduate programs; b) continue to provide a nationally recognized professional degree program in Landscape Architecture that is competitive with comparable local and national-level professional programs; and c) positively respond to long-term economic and demographic trends associated with the profession of Landscape Architecture.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the modified program include a commitment to meet the broader accreditation standards adopted by Clemson University, and to continue to meet the specific accreditation standards of the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). Additional objectives of the modified program include: continuing to meet Clemson University, and CAAH strategic planning objectives. Specifically, the program curriculum provides professionally oriented education in core knowledge skills and applications of landscape architecture: landscape architectural history, philosophy, theory, values, land stewardship and environmental ethics, landscape architecture professional practice for the planning, design and implementation of sustainable built environments and healthy communities, as well as responsible land management and the conservation of natural resources. In addition to the professional curriculum, the modified program provides an educational and interdisciplinary context enriched by other disciplines, including but not limited to: liberal and fine arts, natural sciences, social sciences, science and technology, and opportunities for areas of interest.

The program success is measured by student enrollment, graduation and placement in the field. Students are surveyed one and three years following graduation as part of the ongoing process of program assessment. Feedback from students in the major is collected as part of the program's annual assessment process and used for making curricula improvements as indicated.

Justification

The proposed modification is based on the need to provide (in short and long terms) more affordable, high quality professional education in landscape architecture, that fosters the support and development of licensed landscape architects and meet the public health, safety and welfare needs of the State of South Carolina and the region. Program modification rationale is based primarily on a reduction of program support courses, intensification of existing landscape architecture course, efficient recombination of appropriate existing courses, and the development of a broad introductory course for incoming students.

Centrality of the modified program to the Commission-approved mission of the institution.

The centrality of the modified program to the University’s mission is reflected in its new curriculum. The modified program’s curriculum fulfills the founder's vision of "a high seminary of learning" through its incorporation of research and emphasis on critical thinking and ethics. It addresses the founder’s will to develop "the material resources of the State" for the people of South Carolina through engagement with local communities, service learning, emphasis on resource conservation, development, technology, and global engagement. The modified program’s curriculum provokes students to think deeply about and engage in the social, scientific, economic, and professional challenges of our times. The program curriculum fosters personal growth of the individual, critical thinking skills, good decision-making, healthy and ethical lifestyles, and tolerance and respect for others.

Enrollment

The modified program is intended to maintain and increase enrollment in the program in the short and long terms to stabilize student enrollment at numbers attained during the program’s number 12 national ranking in 2008 (total 107 BLA students for the 5-year program/85 for the 4-year program).

Table 1: ESTIMATED NEW ENROLLMENT						
YEAR	FALL		SPRING		SUMMER	
	Headcount	Credit Hours	Headcount	Credit Hours	Headcount	Credit Hours
2014 – 15	0	0	3	45	0	0
2015 – 16	5	75	5	75	0	0
2016 – 17	7	126	7	105	0	0
2017 – 18	9	135	9	144	0	0
2018 – 19	11	165	11	165	0	0

Curriculum

The curricular changes reduce existing total credit hours from 155 to 124 (33 credit hours in general education courses, 9 credit hours of electives and 82 credit hours of Landscape Architecture professional core program courses). Recommended general education courses and elective courses are intended to enrich the professional program in areas including but not limited to: liberal and fine arts, natural sciences, social sciences, science and technology, and areas of personal interest.

The professional courses remain largely consistent with existing courses, building on the success of the previous program, as well as aligning with professional needs at the local, regional, nationally and globally. The professional curriculum maintains eight design studio courses as the primary pedagogical method of instruction. The curriculum strengthens professional instruction in the first year, adding an introductory course to support intensified first-year studios. The curriculum also reintroduces an established third course on technology and implementation previously omitted from the existing curriculum; this is in part due to technological advances and changes in the profession. The proposed curriculum modification also replaces a required off-campus survey course, with off-campus components incorporated into proposed studios and technical courses. Reduction in total credit hours is accomplished primarily through the reduction of professional support courses and eight hours of electives.

Three new courses were added and include one required introductory course in landscape architecture intended to better prepare beginning students for a more rigorous first year of study; and two elective courses: 1) the first expands the regional understanding of the historical development of South Carolina's designed landscapes in the built environment that emerged as part of the area's cultural development, environmental ethics, and contribution to the landscape architecture profession and 2) the second expands the global reach of the program curriculum to include the traditional garden design traditions of East Asia (China and Japan).

LARC 1150 Introduction to Landscape Architecture (3,0)

The courses provide an introduction to the foundations and contemporary sources of Landscape Architecture. The course surveys the relationship between landscape architecture and sustainability, medicine, engineering, art, the natural sciences, planning and development, psychology, recreation and tourism, architecture, preservation, and technology.

LARC 4710 : East Asian Picturesque: Chinese and Japanese Gardens (3,0)

This course is an exploration of the Chinese and Japanese classical garden traditions. Its focus is on the Chinese traditional garden typology that eventually found its way to Japan. It explores the evolution of the Chinese traditional garden within the context of the classical arts. Emphasis will be placed on understanding garden design principles that deal with scenery manipulation and visualization, as well as an in-depth study of the Chinese classical design language, grammar and vocabulary. It includes an investigation of the cultural meaning and social significance of these traditional garden environments, as a critical means of grasping Chinese and Japanese cultural traditions, individually and comparatively. It examines East Asian traditions of landscape painting, pictorial representations of gardens, and the spatial forms of the gardens found in Suzhou, Hangzhou and the surrounding region of South China, and Kyoto, Japan; it includes public and private gardens. This course incorporates an exploration of the multi-dimensional context within which these garden traditions evolved – the dichotomy between nature and the artifice against the dynamic backdrop of society, politics, philosophy and religion, as well as an investigation of its place along with the classical arts. The exploration of these East Asian garden traditions subsumes the discussion of architecture as one of several

design components represented in the complexity of garden scene-making. It concludes with a comparative analysis of Chinese and Japanese gardens and an exploration of these traditional gardens on 20th century modern landscape architecture in the west. No previous knowledge of Japanese or Chinese history is required.

LARC 4720 South Carolina Landscapes: Then and Now (3,0)

This course investigates South Carolina's designed and cultural landscapes. It provides an overview of the human impacts and settlement patterns, its natural and physical environments and focuses on South Carolina's landscape legacy of the built environment. The course traverses through South Carolina spatially and temporally to include the low country's cultural landscape legacy of the historic garden plantations and the piazza in the Charleston single room house, the environmental ethos of Hilton Head's development and the modernist landscape architecture tradition in Greenville. While the course is focused on the study of South Carolina's landscape, it provides an analysis of the political and cultural forces that shaped South Carolina's iconic landscape legacy and introduces the work of the various landscape architects in South Carolina. It enhances and/or introduces the design language and vocabulary utilized by professionals working the allied design professions. In effect, the course is inter-disciplinary in its investigation and interprets the intersection of South Carolina's history, geography, design, politics, and culture, and examines how this is represented in its designed and vernacular landscapes.

Faculty

No faculty changes are anticipated with the program modification.

Physical Plant

No modifications or additions to physical plant support anticipated with the program modification.

Equipment

No additional equipment requirements anticipated with the program modification.

Library Resources

No additional library support anticipated with the program modification. Student currently spending a semester in Charleston, Genoa and Barcelona have the resources that they need at those sites through Clemson's current procedures and policies, online journals, and PASCAL.

Accreditation, Approval, Licensure, or Certification

The existing program is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). The program has been accredited for more than 20 years. The proposed courses remain consistent with existing courses in the curriculum, building on the success of the previous program, as well as addressing contemporary professional needs at the local, regional, nationally and globally. The proposed modification is consistent with trends in accredited programs throughout the United States reducing 5-year programs to 4-year programs. We expect no changes in accreditation status as a result of the proposed modification.

The LAAB is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the official accrediting body for first professional programs in landscape architecture. The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) evaluates landscape architecture programs based on their stated objectives and external minimum standards. As part of the accreditation process, the existing Department of Landscape Architecture program is conducting a mandatory self-study evaluation to be reviewed by the LAAB in Fall Semester

2014. LAAB will then provide an assessment to determine if the program meets accreditation requirements. We fully expect to meet those requirements as we have for more than 20 years. The next LAAB accreditation process can be reasonably expected to occur in 2020.

The State of South Carolina mandates licensure as a prerequisite for the practice of landscape architecture within the state. As part of this mandate, South Carolina requires its licensure applicants to show proof of completion of an accredited degree program in landscape architecture. The LAAB accredits both 4 and 5 year undergraduate degree programs in landscape architecture, which are generally recognized by all states throughout the United States. Graduates of the proposed program can reasonably expect to attain licensure comparable to graduates of the existing accredited program.

Estimated Costs and Sources of Financing

The program is currently funded and there are not anticipated changes in the funding model at the university related to the BLA program. The cost of operation of the program could be shown, therefore, as reallocation of resources with just new student tuition calculated. Or the source of funds can be shown as tuition for total enrollment. Either way, there is really no new costs associated with the program modification of the BLA program.

Table 2: ESTIMATED COSTS BY YEAR						
CATEGORY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	TOTALS
Program Administration ¹	139,333	139,333	139,333	139,333	139,333	696,665
Faculty Salaries ¹	580,746	580,746	580,746	580,746	580,746	2,903,740
Graduate Assistants	31,320	31,320	31,320	31,320	31,320	156,600
Clerical/Support Personnel	112,383	112,383	112,383	112,383	112,383	561,915
Supplies and Materials	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	150,000
Library Resources	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Equipment	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Facilities	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Other (Travel/Training)	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000
TOTALS	908,782	908,782	908,782	908,782	908,782	4,543,910
SOURCES OF FINANCING BY YEAR						
Tuition Funding ²	948,882	1,059,585	1,201,917	1,375,879	1,216,805	5,803,068
Program-Specific Lab Fees	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	82,500
State Funding						
Reallocation of Existing Funds						
Federal Funding	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Funding PSA ³	6,960	6,960	6,960	6,960	6,960	34,800
TOTALS	972,342	1,083,045	1,225,377	1,399,339	1,240,264	5,920,368

¹The current department chair's salary is calculated as: \$139,333 (9 mo. + 10%; plus 33-1/3% summer admin) Administration, Faculty and Staff salaries, as well as Graduate Assistantships are based on current salary data. Supplies and Materials, Equipment, Facilities, Library, and Travel/Training expenditures are based on current expenditure data.

²The number reflects annual resident tuition times the number of students in the program according to projected total student enrollment in first year (60), second year (67), third year (76), fourth year (87), and fifth year when the program will be composed on 4 year BLA students only (82). We estimate approximately 15% of the total student population will be out-of-state. In state tuition is projected as the current rate of \$13,382. Out-of-state tuition is projected at the current rate of \$29,600.

³There are two faculty who receive small amounts of funds through the Public Service and Agriculture program which is considered a separate state agency and therefore shows on this line. (2x 3480)

No unique cost or other special state appropriations will be or have been required or requested.