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Employment Outlook in Landscape Architecture

While current economic conditions have impacted opportunities for landscape architects, the Bureau of Labor Statistics continues to state that there will be good job opportunities in the field. They forecast a 16% increase in jobs from 2006-2016, a growth rate that is faster than average. In addition, they expect retiring professionals to create additional jobs. While future growth is still expected, current landscape architecture graduates are experiencing more difficulty finding jobs. Additional information on employment outlook can be found on the ASLA site and on the Bureau of Labor Statistics site.

Related Web Sites:

http://www.asla.org/
http://www.laprofession.org/
http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos039.htm
Initiated in 1954, Georgia's MLA program is one of the oldest and most prestigious graduate landscape architectural programs in the country, with the largest and most complete landscape architectural faculty anywhere. Among Georgia’s MLA alumni are winners of national design competitions, Presidents and Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects, heads of prestigious university departments, senior editors of national journals, leaders of the National Park Service and other public institutions, designers of Olympic venues, and leading practitioners all over the world. Each year about 16 new students are selectively admitted to the program.

Georgia provides landscape architecture education that is broad and adaptable to the interests of individual students. The MLA program employs student-defined research to develop the unique professional roles of its students, producing graduates who can use the powers of scholarship, design, and communication to discover, advocate, and implement superior landscape solutions.

Georgia employs the largest full-time landscape architecture faculty in the country, ensuring that all specializations within the field are represented. Small graduate classes within the large, diverse school are supportive of intellectual and social debates. The Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture (MLA) at the University of Georgia provides the foundational knowledge, practical skills and design expertise needed to engage in the practice of landscape architecture. In addition, it provides students the opportunity to focus and define their unique position within the profession through scholarly discovery in an interdisciplinary environment. Georgia MLA students are prepared to lead the profession as outstanding practitioners, educators, and scholars in the design, management, and environmental stewardship of the natural and built environment.

Related Web Sites:

http://www.ced.uga.edu/
The MLA curriculum consists of design studios, support courses, core landscape architecture classes and student-selected electives. Students are admitted into one- to three-year programs of study, depending on their educational and professional backgrounds. Students with a non-design undergraduate degree enter a three-year curriculum track, with possible exemptions based on their previous studies. Applicants with professional applied design degrees enter directly into the second year of study. Applicants with BLA or BSLA degrees and ten or more years of professional experience may enter in the third year, accelerating their studies with a one-year program focused on their specialization.

### Sample Program of Study

#### Year 1
(students with non-design degrees begin here)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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</table>
| Fall       | LAND 6010: Landscape Studio  
LAND 6210: Representation I  
LAND 6310: Landscape Ecology  
EDES 6550: History of the Built Environment I |
| Spring     | LAND 6020: Garden Studio  
LAND 6220: Representation II  
LAND 6320: Plant Materials  
LAND 6340: Landscape Engineering  
EDES 6560: History of the Built Environment II |

#### Year 2
(students with a BLA or applied design degree start here)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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| Fall       | LAND 6030: Sustainability Studio  
EDES 6530: Ideas of Nature  
LAND 6330: Landscape Construction  
Elective |
| Spring     | LAND 6040: Community Studio  
EDES 6540: Ideas of Community  
LAND 6710: Professional Practice  
EDES 6900: Research Strategies  
Elective |
| Summer     | Elective Internship |

#### Year 3
(students with BLA or BSLA and ten years’ experience start here)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Fall       | LAND ___: Signature Studio Series (pick one)  
EDES 7350: Landscape Management  
EDES 7550: Values in Design  
Elective |
| Spring     | LAND 7300: Thesis  
Elective |

### Focus Areas

In addition to taking broad required courses, MLA students develop an individual track that focuses on their particular interests in the field. Although students are not expected to fall squarely into a single category, the focus areas they can consider in tailoring their studies are as follows:

» Computer applications 
» Ecological restoration & natural resource management 
» Garden design & plant management 
» General landscape design 
» Golf course design 
» Historic landscape preservation 
» Human design & community participation 
» Land development 
» Landscape history and criticism 
» Recreational and open space design 
» Rural planning and preservation 
» Urban design and planning
All students should read at least some of the following publications, or ones like them, before entering Georgia’s MLA program. They are preliminary to landscape architecture: they deal more with values and perceptions than with techniques. Some of them may be out of print and available only in libraries, not bookstores; that does not reduce their value as background to landscape architecture.

**Books**

- *American Landscape Architecture*, edited by William Tishler
- *Architecture: Form, Space & Order*, Francis D.K. Ching
- *Bounded People, Boundless Lands*, Eric Frey Fogle
- *Celebrating Third Place*, edited by Ray Oldenburg
- *Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs
- *Design with Nature*, Ian L. McHarg
- *Earth in Mind*, David Orr
- *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, Janisse Ray
- *Experience of Place*, Tony Hiss
- *The Geography of Nowhere*, James Howard Kunstler
- *God, Dr. Buzzard and the Bolito Man*, Cornelia Walker Bailey
- *Great Streets*, Allan B. Jacobs
- *The Image of the City*, Kevin Lynch
- *Keeping Time*, William Murtaugh
- *Landscape Architecture: An Illustrated History*, William Mann
- *Landscape Planning – Environmental Applications*, William Marsh
- *A Moment on the Earth*, Gregg Easterbrook
- *A Natural History of the Senses*, Diane Ackerman
- *A Pattern Language*, Christopher Alexander
- *The Necessity for Ruins*, John Brinckerhoff Jackson
- *Reading the Landscape of America*, May Theilgaard Watts
- *Rural by Design*, Randall Arendt
- *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold
- *Second Nature*, Michael Pollan
- *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*, William H. Whyte
- *Trees in Urban Design*, Henry F. Arnold

**Journals**

- *American Forests*
- *Architectural Record*
- *Environment and Behavior*
- *Historic Preservation*
- *Landscape Architecture*
- *Landscape Journal*
- *Places*
- *Restoration and Management Notes*
- *Urban Land*
All MLA applicants are expected to apply under the “prospective candidate for a degree” admission category. All admitted students enter in the fall semester.

All applicants are required to submit the following by **December 31:**

- Academic transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Graduate Record Exam scores
- Three references (electronic forms are available from the Graduate School as part of the online application process)
- A letter of intent, outlining the reasons for the applicant’s interest in landscape architecture, the relevance of previous education and experience, and the applicant’s aims and ambitions. The letter should include how the applicant found out about landscape architecture as a potential field of study and work, why landscape architecture is the right field for the applicant, and what kind of application or contribution within the field is anticipated. The letter of intent is also the applicant’s opportunity to provide any additional information that might help the faculty to evaluate the applicant fully and accurately.
- Admission interviews are recommended for all applicants within half a day’s traveling time of Athens; for these applicants the interview must be conducted before an admission decision can be made. Interviews are strongly encouraged for all others who can arrange to travel to Athens. Interviews assist the school in evaluating applicants accurately, and applicants in selecting a school that can best meet their specific needs. Accommodations at the Georgia Center are available at a discount for prospective grad students. To arrange an interview, call 706-542-4720 or e-mail donnag@uga.edu

**Applicants from foreign countries** where English is not the native language are required in addition to submit TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores.

**Applicants with prior training or experience in landscape architecture or another design field** must submit a design portfolio. There are no restrictions on portfolio format; we request only that material be neat and easy to read. Slides and digital portfolios are discouraged. If you wish us to return the portfolio by mail, you must enclose an appropriately stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Application forms, instructions, and fee payment are found at the Graduate School admissions website. As part of the online application, you will need to furnish complete address information for recommenders for three letters of recommendation. The reference forms are available online at the time you apply. The link for the form can be electronically sent to your recommender while completing the online application. Official transcripts from all institutions, and test scores are sent to the Graduate School Admissions Office: 320 E Clayton Street Suite 400; Athens, Georgia 30602-4401

For the department, send letter of intent, and optional design portfolio to MLA Program; College of Environment & Design; 609 Caldwell Hall; Athens, GA 30602-1845.

**Related Web Sites:**

http://www.uga.edu/gradschool
http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu
Scholarship Information

The College of Environment & Design provides a number of scholarships through the generosity of individuals, clubs and the College’s alumni association. These scholarships are granted on a basis of academic performance in the College, leadership, and need. The scholarships are awarded in April for the following academic year. Students will be notified through e-mail and advisement when applications are open.

Complete information regarding scholarships is available on the CED website.

Availability of specific scholarships and amounts vary from year to year.

Graduate Assistantships

University-wide research assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis of GRE scores and grade point averages. Within the College of Environment & Design, departmental research assistantships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement and job skills required.

Need-based Aid

Need-based financial aid, such as student loans, is available through the University’s Office of Student Financial Aid.

Office of Student Financial Aid
220 Academic Building
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-6114
http://www.uga.edu/osfa
(706) 542-6147

Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market is an agreement among southern states to share uncommon academic programs. Residents of participating states can arrange to pay in-state tuition for the College of Environment & Design’s graduate programs. To enroll, a student must obtain certification of residency from the Common Market coordinator in his or her home state.

Study Abroad

The College recognizes the importance of varied educational opportunities and regularly offers study abroad opportunities during Maymester. Historically, students have taken advantage of travel opportunities in Ghana, Costa Rica, Italy, and a European Garden Tour course. Travel opportunities vary yearly. Interested students should check with the Office of International Education.

Related Web Sites:

http://www.ced.uga.edu/index.php/student_resources/list/cat/scholarships/
http://www.uga.edu/oie/studyabroad.htm
http://www.uga.edu/osfa
Students at the College of Environment & Design pay a differential tuition fee in addition to the standard tuition, which assists the College in three ways:

◊ The fee keeps studio classes within the size designated by the LAAB — the group responsible for CED’s accreditation.

◊ The fee pays to keep hardware and software up to date, so that students will be familiar with the latest technologies when they graduate.

◊ The fee provides of spaces, desks, and other equipment up to professional standards.

Differential tuition is paid per credit on LAND, HIPR, EDES, and PLAN courses. The breakdown is as follows:

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<th>In-state</th>
<th>Out-of-state</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undergrad</td>
<td>$44/credit</td>
<td>$41/credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$528/full load</td>
<td>$487/full load</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>$50/credit</td>
<td>$43/credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$596/full load</td>
<td>$515/full load</td>
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We believe that the benefits from differential tuition have helped keep the College high in national rankings and prestige. Visit the bursar’s office website for full tuition and fee schedules.

Related Web Sites:
https://busfin1.busfin.uga.edu/bursar/schedule.cfm
Thank you for your interest in Georgia’s Master of Landscape Architecture program. If you have any questions regarding the information in this handbook or the MLA program, please address them to:

**MLA Advising Office**
104 Denmark Hall  
(706) 542-4720  
donnag@uga.edu

**Mailing Address:**  
MLA Program  
College of Environment and Design  
609 Caldwell Hall  
University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30602-1845  
Fax: (706) 542-4236