

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING FALL 2026

Students entering in the fall of 2026 will be recommended for degree upon satisfactory completion of the requirements listed in this publication. Returning students should confirm degree requirements for their entering class by reviewing the relevant Degree Requirements publication available on the [MLA Curriculum Details](#) webpage.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

MASTER IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE I

The curriculum of the three-year MLA I is rigorous and comprehensive and prepares candidates for the full range of professional activities in landscape architecture. A four-semester core curriculum provides a solid intellectual base of knowledge in design, history, theory, technology, ecology, representation, and professional practice. The remaining two semesters offer the opportunity to engage in advanced studios and elective courses across all GSD departments. Particular emphasis is given to developing mastery in design in each of the six studios. For those students who want to pursue independent work, there is also the option to develop an elective design thesis in their final semester. The program stream leading to the Master in Landscape Architecture (MLA) is an accredited professional degree intended for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree with a major other than one of the design professions. A candidate will be recommended for the Master in Landscape Architecture as a professional degree upon satisfactory completion of 120 units in the following course of study.

First Term

0 units	STU 1111	Pre-Term Workshop (August; two weeks)*
8 units	STU 1111	Landscape Architecture I (studio)
4 units	VIS 2141	Landscape Representation I
4 units	HIS 4141	HIS 4141 History, Theory Culture I: Textuality and the Practice of Landscape Architecture
4 units	SCI 6141	Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies I

Second Term

0 units	STU 1112	Pre-Term Workshop (January; one week)*
8 units	STU 1112	Landscape Architecture II (studio)
4 units	VIS 2142	Landscape Representation II
4 units	HIS 4142	HIS 4142 History, Theory, Culture II: Material Histories of Landscape Architecture
4 units	SCI 6142	Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies II

Third Term

0 units	STU 1211	Pre-Term Workshop (August; two weeks)*
8 units	STU 1211	Landscape Architecture III (studio)
4 units	DES 3241	DES 3241 History, Theory, Culture III: Theories of Landscape as Urbanism
4 units	SCI 6241	Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies III
4 units	SCI 6244	Climate by Design

Fourth Term

0 units	STU 1212	Pre-Term Workshop (January; one week)*
8 units	STU 1212	Landscape Architecture IV (studio)
4 units	DES 3242	DES 3242 History, Theory, Culture IV: Theories and Practice of Landscape Architecture
4 units	SCI 6242	Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies IV
4 units		Distributional elective or general elective***

Fifth Term

8 units Option Studio**
4 units PRO 7241 Practices of Landscape Architecture
8 units Distributional electives and/or general electives***

OR

8 units Option Studio**
4 units PRO 7241 Practices of Landscape Architecture
4 units ADV 9341 Preparation of Design Thesis Proposal****
4 units Distributional elective or general elective***

Sixth Term

8 units Option Studio**
12 units Distributional electives and/or general electives***

OR

8 units ADV 9342 Design Thesis in Landscape Architecture
12 units Distributional electives and/or general electives***

Footnotes:

* The Graduate School of design offers one- or two-week long pre-semester Digital Media Skills Workshops for each term of the core years (4 classes), all of which are required for all Master in Landscape Architecture students. These workshops are integrated with the design studios and are intended to give students the necessary preparation and knowledge of the workflows and digital techniques used in the context of studios: 3D software basics, rendering basics, data-transfer from 3D software, output and model building techniques using CAD/CAM facilities. The workshop will include an orientation session in the woodshop and on using laser cutters. No academic credit is given for the workshop.

** A minimum of one option studio must be taken from those offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture.

*** Distributional electives must be taken from two fields of study, to be selected from a list of approved courses issued by the department each year indicated as follows: 4 units of electives in landscape architecture history or theory; and 4 units of electives in ecologies, representation, or technologies.

**** MLA I students pursuing the MLA thesis track are required to enroll in an Option Studio offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture in the fall semester of their final year together with ADV 9341. Students enrolled in ADV 9341 Preparation of Design Thesis Proposal who receive a grade of LP (Low Pass) in ADV 9341 are not eligible to continue on the MLA thesis track in ADV 9342 Design Thesis in Landscape Architecture.

Residence: For students entering the three-year MLA I program, a minimum of six terms of full-time study in residence is required. Under special circumstances, students may receive permission to reduce their course load and extend their studies over a longer period of time.

Please note that the MLA I, MLA I AP, and MLA II programs are now designated as a STEM program. Accordingly, international students holding F-1 visas may be eligible for a 24-month Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension on top of their initial OPT of 12 months, for a total of 36 months, following graduation. Each F-1 student must petition United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to approve the 24-month STEM extension, and Harvard does not represent or warrant that USCIS will grant any individual petition.

MASTER IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE I AP

Individuals who hold an accredited professional degree in architecture, or a pre-professional undergraduate degree in landscape architecture or architecture, and a strong design portfolio, may be granted advanced standing of up to two terms, completing the MLA I in two years.

Applicants who are granted advanced standing must have completed the same pre-requisites in college-level environmental science that are required for the MLA I, as well as courses that are roughly analogous to the course of study of the first year program in representation and history described in the MLA I curriculum, and demonstrate a high level of achievement in their design work. For more information, please visit the MLA Degree Requirements page.

A candidate will be recommended for the MLA I AP upon satisfactory completion of 80 units in the following course of study:

First Term

0 units	STU 1211	Pre-Term Workshop (August; two weeks)*
8 units	STU 1211	Landscape Architecture III (studio)
4 units	DES 3241	DES 3241 History, Theory, Culture III: Theories of Landscape as Urbanism
4 units	SCI 6241	Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies III
4 units	SCI 6244	Climate by Design

Second Term

0 units	STU 1212	Pre-Term Workshop (January; one week)*
8 units	STU 1212	Landscape Architecture IV (studio)
4 units	DES 3242	DES 3242 History, Theory, Culture IV: Theories and Practice of Landscape Architecture
4 units	SCI 6142	Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies II
4 units	SCI 6242	Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies IV

Third Term

8 units	Option Studio**	
4 units	HIS 4141	HIS 4141 History, Theory Culture I: Textuality and the Practice of Landscape Architecture
4 units	PRO 7241	Practices of Landscape Architecture
4 units	Distributional electives or general elective***	
<i>Or</i>		
8 units	Option Studio**	
4 units	HIS 4141	HIS 4141 History, Theory Culture I: Textuality and the Practice of Landscape Architecture
4 units	PRO 7241	Practices of Landscape Architecture
4 units	ADV 9341	Preparation of Design Thesis Proposal****

Fourth Term

8 units	Option Studio**	
4 units	AP History/Theory Distributional Elective***	
8 units	Distributional electives and/or general electives***	
<i>OR</i>		
8 units	ADV 9342	Design Thesis in Landscape Architecture
4 units	AP History/Theory Distributional Elective	
8 units	Distributional electives and/or general electives***	

Footnotes:

* The Graduate School of Design offers one- or two-week long pre-semester Digital Media Skills Workshops for each term of the core years (4 classes), all of which are required for all Master in Landscape Architecture

students. These workshops are integrated with the design studios and are intended to give students the necessary preparation and knowledge of the workflows and digital techniques used in the context of studios: 3D software basics, rendering basics, data-transfer from 3D software, output and model building techniques using CAD/CAM facilities. The workshop will include an orientation session in the woodshop and on using laser cutters. No academic credit is given for the workshop.

** A minimum of one option studio must be taken from those offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture.

*** Distributional electives must be taken from two fields of study, to be selected from a list of approved courses issued by the department each year indicated as follows: 4 units of electives in landscape architecture history or theory; and 4 units of electives in ecologies, representation, or technologies; plus an additional 4 units of electives in AP history or theory electives.

**** For AP candidates electing thesis, ADV 9341 Preparation of Design Thesis Proposal serves as a Distributional Elective in history or theory. MLA I AP students pursuing the MLA thesis track are required to enroll in an Option Studio offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture in the fall semester of their final year together with ADV 9341. Students enrolled in ADV 9341 Preparation of Design Thesis Proposal who receive a grade of LP (Low Pass) in ADV 9341 are not eligible to continue on the MLA thesis track in ADV 9342 Design Thesis in Landscape Architecture.

Residence: Individuals admitted with advanced standing to the MLA I AP normally begin with the third term of the program and must complete a minimum of four terms of full-time study in residence. Under special circumstances, students may receive permission to reduce their course load and extend their studies over a longer period of time.

Please note that the MLA I, MLA I AP, and MLA II programs are now designated as a STEM program. Accordingly, international students holding F-1 visas may be eligible for a 24-month Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension on top of their initial OPT of 12 months, for a total of 36 months, following graduation. Each F-1 student must petition United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to approve the 24-month STEM extension, and Harvard does not represent or warrant that USCIS will grant any individual petition.

MASTER IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE II

The two-year, post-professional Master in Landscape Architecture (MLA II) degree program stream is for those who hold an undergraduate professional landscape architecture degree or its equivalent.

The MLA II augments that professional preparation with a particular emphasis on the design of the built environment at the intersection of urbanization and ecology, providing those who have already demonstrated professional competence with the opportunity to advance their critical, theoretical, representational, and technical skills through design.

The program of study for the MLA II includes a strong one semester core curriculum that includes studio and courses in representation, theories of urbanism, and a pro-seminar on current topics in the discipline of landscape architecture. The remaining three semesters offer a flexible academic path that allows students to engage in advanced studios and elective courses across all three GSD departments and the university. The curricular structure encourages advanced individual and collective research and the possibility to develop an elective thesis in the final semester.

A candidate will be recommended for the Master in Landscape Architecture as a post-professional degree upon satisfactory completion of 80 units in the following course of study:

First Term

0 units	STU 1211	Pre-Term Workshop (August; two weeks)*
8 units	STU 1211	Landscape Architecture III (studio)
4 units	DES 3241	DES 3241 History, Theory, Culture III: Theories of Landscape as Urbanism
4 units	SCI 6244	Climate by Design
4 units	ADV 9641	Proseminar in Landscape, Ecology, and Urbanism

Second Term

8 units	Option Studio**	
4 units	DES 3242	History, Theory, Culture IV: Theories and Practice of Landscape Architecture
8 units	General electives	

Third Term

8 units	Option Studio**	
12 units	General electives	
<i>OR</i>		
8 units	Option Studio**	
4 units	ADV 9341	Preparation of Design Thesis Proposal***
8 units	General electives	

Fourth Term

8 units	Option Studio**	
12 units	General electives	
<i>OR</i>		
8 units	ADV 9342	Design Thesis in Landscape Architecture
8 units	General electives	

Footnotes:

* The Graduate School of Design offers one- or two-week long pre-semester Digital Media Skills Workshops for each term of the core years (4 classes), all of which are required for all Master in Landscape Architecture students. These workshops are integrated with the design studios and are intended to give students the necessary preparation and knowledge of the workflows and digital techniques used in the context of studios: 3D software basics, rendering basics, data-transfer from 3D software, output and model building techniques using CAD/CAM facilities. The workshop will include an orientation session in the woodshop and on using laser cutters. No academic credit is given for the workshop.

** A minimum of one option studio must be taken from those offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture.

*** Students enrolled in ADV 9341 Preparation of Design Thesis Proposal who receive a grade of LP (Low Pass) in ADV 9341 are not eligible to continue on the MLA thesis track in ADV 9342 Design Thesis in Landscape Architecture.

Residence: Students entering the two-year MLA II program must also complete a minimum of four terms of full-time study in residence. Under special circumstances, students may receive permission to reduce their course load and extend their studies over a longer period.

Please note that the MLA I, MLA I AP, and MLA II programs are now designated as a STEM program. Accordingly, international students holding F-1 visas may be eligible for a 24-month Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension on top of their initial OPT of 12 months, for a total of 36 months, following graduation. Each F-1 student must petition United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to approve the 24-month STEM extension, and Harvard does not represent or warrant that USCIS will grant any individual petition.