

## Master of Landscape Architecture Credit Unit Statement

The Master of Landscape Architecture curriculum consists of four types of courses that are taught in distinct learning modes. All courses are primarily 6-credit courses, with the exception of the Landscape Design Studio courses that are 12 credits. We use 150 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit course, and 300 hours of student learning activity for a 12-credit Landscape Design studio. Typically, candidates are expected to take 30 credits per semester. The four categories of courses in the Landscape Architecture curriculums are summarized below:

### *Landscape Design Studio*

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Credits: 12

Total Contact Hours: 100

Self-learning Hours: +/-200

Total Student Learning Activities (Hours): +/-300

Output: Single or multiple projects + coursework

Assessment Ratio: 100% Continuous coursework assessment

These studio courses engage candidates in practical problem-solving design exercises in landscape architecture under staff guidance and supervision. The projects are closely related to concurrent course work and seek to develop candidates' knowledge of key landscape theories and concepts, as well as giving them practical experience in technical issues. Teaching is conducted in either two four-hour design studio sessions per week *or* three three-hour, design studio sessions per week. In-class teaching involves working on projects in both group and individual formats. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. Site visits, lectures, and skill-building workshops are also included to extend or support assigned projects. Assessment tasks include drawings, diagrams, photos, renderings, animations, physical models, prototypes, in-class discussion and project presentations (up to 2,500 words for the whole course).

### *Taught / Content-based Courses*

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Credits: 6

Total Contact Hours: 36

Self-learning Hours: +/-114

Total Student Learning Activities (Hours): +/- 150

Output: Project Assignment(s) with Report(s) / Coursework / Examination

Assessment Ratio: 0%-60% Examination; 40%-100% Continuous coursework assessment

*Tracks: History and Theory, Site Technologies, Plants and Ecologies, Landscape Media, Professional Practice*

These courses examine the core and advanced knowledges of the discipline of Landscape Architecture. Courses are organized by themes or tracks that structure teaching subjects within the Division of Landscape Architecture in general. *History and Theory* courses explore the histories and practices of landscape architectural design and urbanism in various geographic and cultural contexts. *Site Technologies and Plants and Ecologies* courses explore technical knowledge and scientific concepts that underpin the discipline. These includes larger scale principles and application of site grading, layout and water management and detailed aspects of structural design and material application. These tracks also include issues of plant identification and physiology, soil science and planting technology. Candidates learn to identify and design plant and animal communities and to understand concepts of natural and constructed ecologies, including aspects of their management and planning. *Landscape Media* courses introduce candidates to the tools of design communication, and teach the fundamentals of graphic design,



analogue and digital drafting and modelling, videography and simulation, and prototyping. Approaches and techniques to manage, manipulate, and envision data, including an introduction to Geographic Information Systems. The *Professional Practice* courses explore the forms of practice and career opportunities within the discipline and their respective standards, regulations and ethics in both global and local contexts. In addition to the tracks, a *Prerequisite* course introduced at the beginning of the first term introduces all disciplinary tracks and frames the overall content and scope of the MLA curriculum.

For all Taught or Content-based courses, teaching is conducted in lectures / workshops / tutorials / or review sessions, and additional learning activities include reading of critical texts, practical exercises, demonstrations, site visits, research and design exercises. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. The courses may be assessed through a combination of examination (0%-60%) and continuous coursework assessment (40%-100%). Continuous coursework assessment of tasks including individual or group projects, presentations and discussions, illustrated or constructed work, case-study or research reports, short essays, quizzes, and other forms of written work (up to a total of 5,000 words for any single course).

### *Project / Research-based Courses*

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Credits: 6

Total Contact Hours: 36

Total Student Learning Activities (Hours): +/- 150

Output: Project Assignment(s) with Report(s) / Coursework

Assessment Ratio: 100% Continuous coursework assessment

These courses give candidates the opportunity to develop their own project or research agenda within pedagogical frameworks and research methodologies developed within the course. These courses include advanced and elective courses and are not necessarily constrained to one of the five disciplinary themes covered by the core curriculum. Instruction for these courses is conducted largely through workshops or discussions, with minor instruction in lecture or tutorial format. Additional learning activities include reading of text, archival or other forms of research, site visits and guest lectures, and data processing. Assessment is 100% continuous and based on in-class presentations and discussion on a final and interim research projects or reports (up to a total of 10,000 words for any single course).

### *Capstone Experience*

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Credits: 18 (6 in third semester +12 in fourth semester)

Total Contact Hours: 80 (over two semesters)

Total Student Learning Activities (Hours): +/- 450 (over two semesters)

Output: Design Thesis Project and Report / Continuous coursework

Assessment Ratio: 100% Continuous coursework assessment

The Capstone experience is designed as an opportunity for candidates to synthesize and apply their skills and knowledge to an individual, research-based design project within the discipline of Landscape Architecture. Candidates must demonstrate through these two courses that they have achieved a majority of the core learning objectives within the curriculum. The capstone experience covers two courses: a *Thesis Prep* course in the penultimate semester, in which candidates are expected to develop the theoretical and disciplinary context, and research methodology, for a thesis proposal; and a *Thesis Design Studio* in the final semester, in which candidates are guided by individual advisors through the production of a design and research project proposal. Teaching forms in the Prep course are consistent with those of Project/Research-based courses described above, while instruction in the Design Studio consists of one-on-one or small-group discussions and class presentation and discussion. Assessment is 100% continuous in both parts of the course and is based on the range of work produced throughout the term, including demonstration of research methodology, design presentations, design and research outputs including illustrations, models, prototypes, and mixed media installation, and on written interim and final thesis reports (up to a total of 25,000 words).