

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
(1980, R1984, R2001, R2009, R2024)**



**Policy Statement**

The American Society of Landscape Architects believes continuous lifelong learning is essential to advance professional competency and maintain professional licensure. ASLA supports deliberate pursuit of professional growth and development to enhance knowledge and relevance, protect the public welfare, and respond to the changing needs of the social, natural, and built environments.

**Justification**

Professional competency requires landscape architects to continually expand their knowledge in the scientific, technological, and social realms so they can develop design solutions that are responsive to the environment, relevant to society, and protect the public's health, safety and welfare. Classes, seminars, conferences, and continuing education are common methodologies that assist professionals in maintaining and improving their skills.

**Issue**

Learning is a lifelong and diverse process and may include formal education, internships, professional practice, licensure, continuing education, and mentoring.

Landscape architectural formal education addresses the body of knowledge derived from practical and theoretical applications of the arts and science that form the basis for critical problem solving related to planning, design, and policy. Education is best attained through accredited programs at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels.

Internships under the direction of experienced practitioners provide essential experience for those new to the profession. Early work experiences are critical to the application of theoretical and practical knowledge and allow emerging professionals to develop business and management skills.

Professional proficiency is attained through formal education, practical experience, and ancillary certifications, such as SITES, providing landscape architects the necessary skills and knowledge to meet relevant moral, ethical, and legal responsibilities.

Licensure verifies the practitioner has skills to develop solutions that meet public health, safety, and welfare requirements. Continuing education is often required to maintain licensure and enhance perception, philosophies, and technical skills.

Throughout an individual's career mentorships provide direct assistance and encouragement for professional development. The mentor/mentee relationship is mutually beneficial and includes an exchange of ideas, counseling, guiding, role modeling, and sharing knowledge in different areas of the practice of landscape architecture.

**Resources**

Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES)  
<https://laces.asla.org/>

Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES)  
<https://www.sustainablesites.org/>

**Note**

This policy is one of an integrated group of policies on education issues.