Policy Statement
The American Society of Landscape Architects supports the advancement of landscape architecture through education. The profession’s knowledge base plays an essential role in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the natural environment.

To ensure the appropriate advancement and application of pertinent knowledge, the Society urges intra-disciplinary collaboration among academic, private, and public practitioners in teaching, research, and practice. The Society endorses educational initiatives that meet the learning objectives of landscape architects and address the multifaceted needs of the profession throughout a lifelong learning continuum.

Rationale
The landscape architecture profession’s core knowledge and skills are attained, developed, and nurtured over a lifelong learning continuum, including both formal and informal endeavors. Supporting the learning objectives of landscape architects throughout that continuum is crucial to the profession. Therefore, the Society supports the development of research and continuing education initiatives that enable practitioners to address the evolving challenges of landscape architectural practice.

An academically and professionally diverse faculty contributes greatly to the development and dissemination of knowledge, skills, and insight – as those abilities come to bear in the process of resolving planning and design problems. Encouraging excellence and diversity in the student population is essential to ensuring a source of new energy, ideas, perceptions, and scrutiny regarding the profession and its on-going social responsibilities. This academic exploration is important to the vitality of the profession.

Development and maintenance of accreditation standards advance the quality and currency of university education. Programs should periodically reevaluate their curricula as needed to achieve those standards. Further, it is critical that academic institutions, in collaboration with private and public practitioners, plan, develop, and sustain activities that address the anticipated changes in the profession. The academic community can benefit greatly from student and faculty achievements that promulgate new concepts or technologies that advance the profession. The academic community should also recognize student, faculty, and practitioner work that promulgate new theoretical and practical advancement of the profession. The Society supports ongoing research and scholarly work and encourages academic and professional organizations to adapt to changes as appropriate to their mission.

Note
This policy serves as the preamble to a group of policies on education that includes accreditation, research, and professional development, all integral elements of the Society’s policy on education.