



PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE: PREREQUISITES FOR LICENSURE (2002, R2018)

Policy Statement

The American Society of Landscape Architects believes in a three-part basis for qualification of candidates for licensure: education, experience, and examination. These three elements are complementary and represent a continuum of development of professional skills necessary to establish minimum professional competency and practice in the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

In fulfilling the educational requirement, ASLA believes a professional degree in landscape architecture from a program accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board serves as the minimum criteria for landscape architecture educational attainment. ASLA also believes that alternative equivalent educational paths may provide the requisite qualifications in lieu of the accredited degree that could be considered as fulfilling the educational prerequisites to licensure. These may include practical experience, alternative educational tracks, or a combination thereof.

ASLA believes practical experience, under the guidance and supervision of a licensed landscape architect, is necessary to provide real-world application of skills learned through a professional education. This experience must be targeted toward the goal of licensure.

ASLA believes examination is a necessary requirement to confirm the effectiveness of the candidate's education and experience, and to demonstrate that the necessary skills have been developed to practice responsibly, particularly related to the protection of public health, safety and welfare.

Rationale

Landscape architectural education provides exposure to a foundation of knowledge, particularly in design, that is difficult to duplicate by other means. It is also acknowledged that a substantial majority of candidates for licensing will have earned a professional degree from an accredited landscape architectural program.

Alternative paths encourage individuals who may be unable to pursue a formal degree from an accredited program and may otherwise be fully qualified to enter the profession. Supporting alternative tracks to licensure are state regulations that provide an equivalency evaluation process, which ensures that the individual has obtained the full range of knowledge, skills, and abilities that the profession covers.

While a professional education provides the candidate landscape architect with a solid knowledge base for practice, there are many aspects of the profession that cannot be taught in the classroom or studio environment. Therefore, a minimum level of professional experience should be required to expose the candidate to the demands of practice.

Education and experience are two related prerequisites for licensing and for practice, although each must be justified independently as elements of a licensing system. Examination is the third component, with the goal of testing the effectiveness of the combination of education and experience. It is important that the examination test not

only the knowledge gained through education, but also the techniques of applying that education through experience.

Note

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

