



## Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

### ASLA Summary of Provisions

#### ALASKA

Alaska Statutes: Sec. 08.01-08.03, Sec. 08.48

Alaska Professional Regulation: 12 AAC 02, 12 AAC 36

**Type of Law:** Practice/title act. Sunset date: 6/30/2017.

#### **Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors**

By permanent statute, a ten-member joint board is comprised of two civil engineers, two land surveyors, one mining engineer, one electrical or mechanical engineer, one engineer from another branch of the profession of engineering, two architects, and one public member, appointed by the Governor. However, uncodified law provides for the appointment of a landscape architect serving as a temporary, non-voting member. Financed by the General Fund.

**Powers:** Adopt regulations; establish bylaws; publish code of ethics.

#### **Definitions**

**Landscape architect:** A professional landscape architect.

**Practice of landscape architecture:** Professional services or creative work in site investigation, reconnaissance, research, planning, design, and preparation services related to drawings and construction documents, observation of construction, and location, arrangement, and design of incidental and necessary tangible objects and features for the purpose of: preservation and enhancement of land uses and natural land features; location and construction of aesthetically pleasing and functional approaches for structures, roadways, and walkways; establishing or maintaining trails, plantings, landscape irrigation, landscape lighting, and landscape grading; or generalized planning of the development of land areas in a manner that is sensitive to the area's natural and cultural resources. [Design or creative work involving any of the following constitutes the practice of an aspect of landscape architecture that affects the public health, safety, and welfare and thus requires licensure: (1) grading, clearing, or shaping of land; (2) landscape irrigation; (3) outdoor planting plans; (4) outdoor play apparatus; and (5) outdoor structures. This provision does not supersede the exemptions for certain persons and activities found in the law (see below).]

[An offer to practice landscape architecture: A response to an RFP which contains information that could be used to qualify as a potential provider of services; a proposal in which a monetary value is suggested as the acceptable payment for services offered; or an acceptance of employment for the purpose of providing landscape architectural services.]

**Responsible charge:** Direct control and personal supervision of work.

[Responsible charge of work in the field: The direction of work, the successful accomplishment of which rested upon the applicant, where the applicant has to decide question of methods of execution and suitability of materials without relying upon advice or instructions from his superiors and where the applicant has to supply solutions to deficiencies in plans or has to correct errors in designs without first referring them to higher authority for approval, except where the approval is a matter of form.]

[Responsible control: The amount of control over and detailed knowledge of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by licensees applying the required professional standard of care.]

**Design of minor importance:** means a design that is incidental to the discipline of a licensee and is

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.



Within the discipline of the licensee, but does not include comprehensive design services of any particular building type, structure, building system, engineering system, or site development

### Exemptions

Interprofessional practice: The law does not prohibit the practice of landscape architecture by a person who is not licensed to practice landscape architecture if the services being performed by the person are within the scope of practice authorized by another license that is held by the person.

Exempt persons: The law sets forth a significant exemption specific to the practice of landscape architecture which provides: The requirement to be licensed as a landscape architect only applies to a person who practices an aspect of landscape architecture that the board has determined affects the public health or safety.

The following categories of exempt persons apply equally to architects, engineers, land surveyors and landscape architects:

- A contractor performing work designed by a professional architect, engineer, or landscape architect or the supervision of the construction of the work as a supervisor or superintendent for a contractor.
- Workers in building trades crafts, earthwork, grounds keeping, or nursery operations, and superintendents, supervisors, or inspectors in the performance of their customary duties.
- An officer or employee of the United States government practicing architecture, engineering, land surveying, or landscape architecture as required by the person's official capacity.
- An employee or a subordinate of a licensee if the work or service is done under the direct supervision of a licensee.
- Associates, consultants, or specialists retained by a licensee, a partnership of licensees, a corporation, a limited liability company, or a limited liability partnership authorized to practice architecture, engineering, land surveying, or landscape architecture under this chapter, in the performance of professional services if responsible charge of the work remains with the individual, the partnership, or a designated representative of the corporation, limited liability company, or limited liability partnership.
- A licensed specialty contractor engaged in the business of construction contracting for work designed by an architect, engineer, or landscape architect that is within the specialty to be performed or supervised by the specialty contractor, or a contractor preparing shop or field drawings for work that the specialty contractor has contracted to perform.
- A person furnishing drawings, specifications, instruments of service, or other data for alterations or repairs to a building or its grounds that do not change or affect the structural system or the safety of the building, or that do not affect the public health, safety, or welfare.
- A person who is employed by a postsecondary educational institution to teach engineering, architectural, or landscape architectural courses.
- An officer or employee of an individual, firm, partnership, association, utility, corporation, limited liability company, or limited liability partnership, who practices engineering involved in the operation of the employer's business only, and further provided that neither the employee nor the employer offers engineering services to the public; exclusions under this paragraph do not apply to buildings or structures whose primary use is public occupancy.
- A person while involved in revegetation, restoration, reclamation, rehabilitation, or erosion control for disturbed land.
- A person while maintaining or directing the placement of plant material.
- An employee, officer, or agent of a regulatory agency of the state or a municipality when reviewing drawings and specifications for compliance with the building codes of the state or a municipality if the drawings and specifications have been signed and sealed by a professional architect, professional engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architect, or the preparation of the drawings and specifications is exempt under this section from the requirements of this chapter; in this paragraph, "building codes" includes codes relating to building, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, fire standards, and zoning

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.

AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS  
636 EYE STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20001-3736

[www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)  
1.888.999.ASLA  
T 202.898.2444  
F 202.898.1185



AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS  
636 EYE STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20001-3736

[www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)  
1.888.999.ASLA  
T 202.898.2444  
F 202.898.1185

#### Exempt structures:

- Buildings for one's own use and occupancy as a single family residence and related site work for those buildings.
- Farm or ranch buildings and their grounds unless the public health, safety, or welfare is involved.
- Buildings of not more than two stories in height that are intended for residential use by not more than four families, and the grounds of those buildings.
- Garages, workshops, or similar buildings of less than 2,000 square feet used for a private noncommercial purpose, and the grounds of the building.

#### Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure

Satisfactory evidence of education, training, and experience, and passage of examination recognized by national examining council. [Eligibility for examination based on various combinations of education and experience: LAAB accredited degree, plus 3 (5-yr degree) or 4 (4-yr degree) years experience; non-LAAB accredited LA professional degree, plus 5 years experience; non-LAAB accredited LA B.A./B.S. degree will account for 1-3 years for 10 years combined education/experience; Coursework in LAAB accredited curriculum (w/o degree) will account for 1-3 years for 10 years combined education/experience; and coursework (minimum of one year) in a non-LAAB accredited LA program (w/o degree) will account for 1 year for 12 years combined education/experience. Applicants must also complete a board-approved course in artic engineering or its equivalent. Experience must be obtained either (1) under the responsible control of a U.S.-licensed landscape architect or (2) via completion of a mentoring program. The mentoring program must complete 3 years (with 5-yr LAAB-accredited degree) or 4 years (with 4-year LAAB-accredited degree) of quarterly face-to-face meetings with a U.S.-licensed landscape architect. Applicants must provide a report after each meeting with a description of the applicant's work experience reviewed during that meeting, as specified. In addition to the LARE, applicants must pass the state jurisprudence exam, with a passing score of at least 90%. The exam and study materials are sent to each applicant.]

Fee: [Application \$50; Initial license and biennial renewal, \$125.]

#### Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure

A license to practice landscape architecture in another jurisdiction that in the opinion of the board meets requirements of the law, or a CLARB certificate. Successful completion of a board-approved university level course in artic engineering or its equivalent is also required. Applicants must pass the state jurisprudence exam, with a passing score of at least 90%. The exam and study materials are sent to each applicant.]

Fee: [Initial license \$275 (\$50 application, \$100 review and \$125 license). Biennial renewal, \$125.]

#### Practice Entities

Corporations, limited liability companies and limited liability partnerships formed between licensees must be authorized by the board. Such entities must: file resolutions providing that licensees are responsible for the practice of landscape architecture and have full authority to make all final landscape architectural decisions on behalf of the entity; designate in writing the name(s) of licensee(s) in responsible charge of landscape architectural activities in which the entity specializes; specify in the entity's bylaws or articles of organization that all landscape architectural decisions will be made by the landscape architect in responsible charge or other licensees under the direction or supervision of the landscape architect in responsible charge. Documents issued in connection with work performed by the entity shall be prepared by or under the responsible charge of and shall be signed and stamped by the licensee.

Corporations, limited liability companies and limited liability partnerships formed exclusively between a group of landscape architects may be authorized by the board based on a review of the licensees' professional records, in lieu of the specific requirements set forth above. Partnerships are permitted if all of the partners are licensed architects engineers, land surveyors or landscape architects. For these purposes, "partnership" does not include a "limited liability partnership."

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.



Fee: [Application, \$50. Biennial renewal, \$125. Amendment, \$50.]

### **Seal Requirements**

When a licensee issues final drawings, specifications, surveys, plats, plates, reports or similar documents, the licensee shall sign the documents and stamp the documents with the seal. By affixing the seal, the licensee certifies that those documents were prepared by or under the licensee's direct supervision, are within the licensee's field of practice, or constitutes design of minor importance. Documents containing the work of multiple fields of practice shall be sealed and signed by a licensee in each field of practice covered by the document. The licensee shall certify on the face of the document the extent of the licensee's responsibility for all work prepared under the seal. When certifying design work of minor importance, the licensee shall identify that work on the document near the seal and take responsibility for all work prepared under the seal. [Licensee must include the date each time he/she signs and seals a document by inserting the date within the seal or within two inches of the seal.]

[A licensee may approve and seal only design documents and surveys that are safe for public health, property and welfare in conformity with accepted standards and may seal only those documents for which the licensee is qualified to sign and for which he or she claims responsibility. A licensee may only sign or seal documents for which he or she had direct professional knowledge and direct supervisory control. In the case of portions of documents or other professional work, which are prepared by other licensees, a licensee may seal only that portion of the work for which he or she has such direct professional knowledge and direct supervisory control.]

### **Enforcement**

Board powers: Revoke, suspend or refuse to renew a license or certificate; censure or reprimand a licensee; impose limitations or conditions on professional practice; require a licensee to submit to peer review; impose requirements for remedial professional education; impose probation; impose a civil fine not to exceed \$5,000. Bring an action in superior court to enforce compliance or enjoin a person from doing an illegal act.

The attorney general acts as legal advisor and renders legal assistance to the board.

Department powers: Conduct investigations; issue orders directing individuals to stop an act or practice; bring action in superior court to enforce compliance; examine books and records of licensees; issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses, production of books, etc. Issue citations for unlicensed practice; each day a violation continues after citation constitutes a separate violation.

Prohibitions/penalties: Licensees, corporations, limited liability companies or limited liability partnerships may be disciplined for: fraud or deceit in obtaining a license; gross negligence; incompetence or misconduct in the practice of landscape architectures; a violation of the law, regulations, or code of ethics. [Licensees may not: sign or seal documents dealing with professional services in which the licensee is not qualified by virtue of education, experience, and licensure; knowingly allow the use of his or her seal by another person on a document that the licensee has not prepared or reviewed personally; use the seal of another licensee; sign a name other than his or her own name or forge the signature of another licensee; sign or seal plans, documents or other professional work for which he or she does not have direct professional knowledge and direct supervisory control.]

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: Practicing or offering to practice landscape architecture without a license; presenting or attempting to use the certificate or seal of another; giving false or forged evidence to the board; impersonating a licensee; attempting to use an expired, revoked or nonexistent certificate; falsely claiming to be licensed; or violating any provision of the law is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 and/or by imprisonment for not more than one year.

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.

AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS  
636 EYE STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20001-3736

[www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)  
1.888.999.ASLA  
T 202.898.2444  
F 202.898.1185



The board has statutory authority to issue civil penalties of up to \$5,000 in the case of unlicensed practice only as it relates to the practice of architecture, engineering or land surveying. There is no corresponding authority as to the unlicensed practice of landscape architecture.

### **Mandatory Continuing Education**

Alaska requires landscape architects to complete 24 professional development hours (PDH) for each biennial renewal cycle.

- PDH = Professional Development Hour (not less than 50 minutes of instruction)
- 12 extra PDH may be carried over to the next reporting period
- All CE must be relevant to the practice of landscape architecture and may include technical, ethical or managerial content
- All CE must address the public health, safety and welfare by instructing in the proper planning and design in the area of the licensee's license, for the construction of buildings, structures, infrastructure, or the spaces within and surrounding such facilities, preservation and enhancement of land use and natural land features, measuring and locating land for property boundaries, platting, planning and design of subdivisions, or the preparation and perpetuation of maps or record plats so that generally (a) risk to injury to persons is minimized; (b) the results are durable and environmentally friendly; (c) the results function properly in all relevant respects; or (d) the results enhance the general welfare of the public. (This section applies to all architects, engineers, and land surveyors as well as landscape architects)
- The following are deemed to be **non-qualifying** activities: Regular employment; courses in self-study or personal self-improvement; service club meetings or activities; equipment demonstrations or trade shows; topics not relevant to registrant's field of practice; enrollment without attendance in courses or seminars, etc.; repetitive teaching of the same course without updating the course material; attending committee and business meetings of any organization; conversational language courses for personal use.

AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS  
636 EYE STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20001-3736

[www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)  
1.888.999.ASLA  
T 202.898.2444  
F 202.898.1185

#### Administration:

- Board will audit 5% of renewing licensees after renewals are complete.

#### Activities:

- There must be a clear purpose and objective for each activity that will maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge relevant to the practice of landscape architecture
- The sponsoring organizations that provide continuing education may be an educational institution, a professional association, or a business or governmental organization
- Completing college-sponsored courses
- Completing courses that award CEUs
- Attending seminars, in-house workshops and professional or technical presentations at meetings, conventions or conferences
- Short courses, tutorials, correspondence, web-based courses, and televised or videotaped courses
- Authoring published papers, articles, or books (1 PDH for each hour of preparation; maximum 10 PDH/biennium)
- Serving as an officer or actively participating in a committee of professional or technical societies (1 PDH for 2 hours of service earned at the end of full year of participation; maximum 8 PDH)
- Teaching a professional development course, seminar or professional/technical presentation for the first time (does not apply to full-time faculty)
- Semester hour = 45 PDH; quarter hour = 30 PDH; teaching recorded as 2x PDH
- Continuing education providers may be an educational institution, a professional association, or a business or governmental organization.
- 1 CEU = 10 PDH

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.



Recordkeeping: Licensee has responsibility for maintaining record, as specified [and available on the board's website](#). Must provide sufficient detail to permit audit verification. The information is submitted with renewal application and fee.

Reciprocity: If a licensee is licensed in another jurisdiction with CE requirements that are substantially similar to or exceed Alaska requirements, the licensee may certify that he/she has met all CE requirements in that jurisdiction. Such licensees must keep a log of CE activities earned from that jurisdiction and make them available if audited.

Exemptions:

- Licensees in the first biennial renewal period after initial licensure
- Military personnel on active duty more than 120 consecutive days in a 12-month period
- Due to physical disability, serious illness, family emergency or other extenuating circumstances, as approved by the board
- Licensees in retired status

**Last updated February 26, 2015**

AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS  
636 EYE STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20001-3736

[www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)  
1.888.999.ASLA  
T 202.898.2444  
F 202.898.1185

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.