



Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

ASLA Summary of Provisions

MARYLAND

Maryland Annotated Codes: Title 9

Code of Maryland Regulations: Title 9, Subtitle 28

Type of Law: Practice/title act. Sunset date: 7/1/2024.

Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects

The board consists of three licensed landscape architects and two public members appointed by the Governor. Financed through a special fund, the State Occupational and Professional Licensing Design Boards' Fund.

Powers: Adopt necessary regulations and, with the advice of the established landscape architecture association, a code of ethics.

Definitions

Landscape architect: An individual who practices landscape architecture.

Practice landscape architecture: To provide any service or creative work in the analysis or design of land and natural resources that requires training and experience in the application of the biological, physical, mathematical, and social sciences. To perform design coordination of a project or portion of a project provided that the licensed landscape architect holds a current license issued by the Board and has adequate education and experience in, and understanding of, the project or portion of the project being coordinated. Includes consultation, research, analysis, assessment, selection, and allocation of land and natural resources; development of graphic, written, digital, and other appropriate criteria to govern the planning and design of land development and construction programs, including: (1) preparation, review, and analysis of master plans, site plans, and land development plans; (2) reconnaissance, planning, design, and preparation of construction documents; (3) construction, observation, administration, and project management; (4) preservation, restoration, conservation, reclamation, rehabilitation, and management of land and natural resources; (5) preparation of feasibility and site selection studies, environmental studies, and cost estimate reports; and (6) design and analysis of grading and drainage, irrigation, erosion and sediment control systems, and pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems. Also includes the following in conjunction with site plan preparation: determining a grade; determining drainage; and preparing and designing stormwater drainage systems provided that the preparation and design: (1) are in accordance with design manuals, details, and standards accepted by the State or local authorities; and (2) do not require a hydraulic or structural design of system components.

Exemptions

Interprofessional practice: The law exempts architects, engineers and land surveyors and their employees acting under their supervision for landscape architectural services incidentally to their respective practices.

Exempt persons:

- Federal government employees.
- Individuals under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect, if the individual does not assume responsible charge of the design/supervision.
- Individuals practicing landscape architecture as an employee of a licensee, if the employee does not assume responsible charge of the design/supervision.
- Nurserymen, general contractors, or landscape contractors designing, planning, locating, planting, or arranging plantings or other ornamental features.

Note: Bracketed [] material is drawn from regulations.

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Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure

Passage of a written examination. In order to qualify for the examination, the applicant must follow one the following three routes: (1) graduate from an LAAB-accredited college or school of landscape architecture and have at least two years of experience; (2) graduate from a 4-year curriculum in a design-related discipline from a college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting body and have at least four years of experience; (3) graduate from a 4-year curriculum in a non-design-related discipline from a college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting body and have at least six years of experience; or eight years of practical experience. Each year of study from an LAAB-accredited program counts as one year of practical experience. All experience must be obtained under the responsible charge of a licensed landscape architect or other authorized individual.

[Fee: Application, \$35. Initial license and biennial renewal, \$76.50.]

Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure

Licensure in a state where the test and qualifications were substantially equivalent to those in Maryland and which state offers equivalent reciprocity to Maryland licensees.

[Fee: Application, \$50. Initial license and biennial renewal, \$76.50.]

Practice Entities

Entities must receive a permit from the board. To qualify for a permit, a corporation or partnership shall have appointed at least one responsible member of the entity who is a landscape architect and is in responsible charge of landscape architecture practiced through the entity.

[Fee: Initial permit and biennial renewal, \$100.]

Seal Requirements

Before a landscape architect issues to a client or submits to a public authority any final drawing, plan, specification, report, or other document, the licensee who prepared or approved the document must sign, seal, and date the document.

Enforcement

Board powers: Conduct investigations, hold hearings, seek injunctions, deny, reprimand, suspend or revoke licenses, and impose civil penalties not exceeding \$1,000 for each violation.

Prohibitions/penalties: The board may take disciplinary actions if a licensee or applicant: fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license; fraudulently or deceptively uses a license; is convicted of a misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and qualification to practice landscape architecture or a felony; is guilty of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct while practicing landscape architecture; has had a license to practice landscape architecture in another state revoked or suspended; gives false information to obtain a license; knowingly violates any provision of the code of ethics or the law. Violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$3,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or both.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: Practicing, attempting to practice, or offering to practice landscape architecture, representing one's self to the public, by use of a title, including landscape architect or licensed landscape architect, by description of services, methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that an unlicensed person is a licensee is prohibited. Violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$3,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or both. The board may also impose civil penalties not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation.

Mandatory Continuing Education

24 PDH / 2 years

- Requires licensees to complete 12 PDH if renewing between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016 and to complete the full 24 PDH if renewing on or after October 1, 2016.

Note: Bracketed [] material is drawn from regulations.



- PDH = one continuous instructional hour spent attending and completing the professional development activity. One PDH means a minimum of 50 minutes of face-to-face or distance learning instruction per 60-minute hour
- At least 16 PDH must be in the following subjects related to HSW: professional ethics (at least 1 PDH MUST be in this area); research, analysis, assessment, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of land use; selection and allocation of cultural, historic and natural resources; laws and regulations applicable to the practice of landscape architecture in Maryland; standards of practice or care; or similar topics aimed to maintain, improve or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the practice of landscape architecture.
- Up to 8 PDH can be earned in the following subjects: business or government administration; or development of traits, skills, or behavioral patterns geared towards improved communications skills, oral and written skills, personal management skills, or other similar programs which contain a clear purpose of improving a licensee's methods of practice or operations or advancing professionally-related skills and practices as applicable to the practice of landscape architecture.
- 12 or fewer PDH may be carried over to the subsequent year
- All courses must be approved and accepted for credit by the board, LA CES, or ASLA.

Administration:

- Entities or individuals, including, but not limited to, professional firms conducting in-house presentations, may submit a specific professional development activity for review and approval by the Board. LA CES and ASLA courses are deemed approved.
- The Board at its discretion may audit randomly selected licensees to ascertain compliance CE requirements.

Activities:

- A qualifying activity must maintain and enhance professional competency of licensed landscape architects; foster improvement, advancement, and extension of professional skills and knowledge related to the practice of landscape architecture; offer learning experiences relevant to current landscape architectural practices as they relate to the public health, safety, and welfare; and be presented, led or taught at a professional level by well-qualified professionals in the learning environment conducive to learning and appropriate for accomplishing learning objectives described in these regulations.
- Classroom instruction; In-house presentation; Distance learning delivery; On-line instruction

Recordkeeping: Licensees must attest to CE compliance with biennial license renewal on specified form. Licensee has responsibility for maintaining two-year record, with sufficient detail to permit audit verification.

Reciprocity: The Board will accept PDHs earned for activities completed in other jurisdictions, provided that the activities and programs are consistent with and comply with this and the licensee otherwise fulfills all other applicable license renewal requirements.

Exemptions:

- New licensees in the first renewal period
- Military personnel deployed outside the state may be allowed to complete CE requirements after renewal
- Licensees experiencing a physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances (Compliance Exception Request process required)

Last updated March 3, 2015

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