



Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

ASLA Summary of Provisions

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Statutes: Chapter 61-24B

New Mexico Administrative Code: Title 16, Chapter 44, Part I

Type of Law: Practice/title act. Sunset date: 7/1/2013.

Board of Landscape Architects

The board consists of three landscape architects and two public members appointed by the Governor. The landscape architect members of the board are appointed from a list submitted to the Governor by the New Mexico Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Financed through separate fund.

Powers: Promulgate necessary rules and regulations and participate with the state board of examiners for architects and the state board of registration for professional engineers and land surveyors in creating a joint standing committee to resolve disputes concerning these professions.

Definitions

Landscape architect: Any individual licensed under the law to practice landscape architecture. Definition also applies to "registered landscape architect (RLA)."

Landscape architecture: The art, profession or science of designing land improvements, including consultation, investigation, research, design, preparation of drawings and specifications and general administration of contracts. Nothing in the law authorizes a landscape architect to engage in the practice of architecture, engineering or land surveying.

General administration of a construction contract: The interpretation of drawings and specifications, the establishment of standards of acceptable workmanship and the periodic observation of construction to facilitate consistency with the general intent of the construction documents.

Exemptions

Interprofessional practice: Nothing in the law is intended to limit, interfere with or prevent a professional architect, engineer or land surveyor from engaging in landscape architecture within the limits of his or her license.

Exempt persons:

- Landscape architects who are not legal residents of or who have no established place of business in New Mexico who are acting as consulting associates of a landscape architect provided that the nonresident landscape architect meets equivalent licensure qualifications in his own state or country.
- Landscape architects acting solely as officers or employees of the United States.
- Any persons making plans for a landscape associated with a single-family residence or multi-family residential complex of four or fewer units except when it is a part of a larger complex.
- Drafters, students, clerks or superintendents and other employees of licensed landscape architects acting under the instructions, control or supervision of a licensed landscape architect.
- Superintendents from acting under the immediate personal supervision of landscape architects by whom the plans and specifications of any landscape architectural services were prepared.

Note: Bracketed [] material is drawn from regulations.



Eligibility Requirements – In-Training Licensure

Available to individuals who meet the educational requirements for initial licensure (see below) and who have passed two sections of the LARE. Individuals may only be certified as a landscape architect in-training for five years.

[Fee: \$150, initial licensure and renewal]

Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure

[An applicant must submit a CLARB Council Record with the application for licensure.] Passage of a [the LARE]. In order to qualify for the examination, the applicant must have:

- Graduated from an accredited program in landscape architecture at a school, college or university and have a minimum of two years of practical experience acceptable to the board, at least one year of which must be under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect.
- Graduated from a non-accredited program of landscape architecture at a school, college or university offering minimum four year bachelor's degree curriculum or a minimum two-year master's degree curriculum and has a minimum of four years of acceptable practical experience, at least one year of which must be under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect.
- Graduated from a program in a field related to landscape architecture at a school, college or university offering a minimum four year bachelor's degree curriculum or a minimum two-year master's degree curriculum and has a minimum of five years of acceptable practical experience, at least one year of which must be under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect.
- A minimum of ten years of acceptable practical experience in landscape architectural work, at least one year of which must be under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect. Each satisfactorily completed year of study in an accredited program of landscape architecture may be accepted in lieu of one year of practical experience; or a baccalaureate degree from a school, college or university may be accepted in lieu of two years of practical experience.

[Practical experience is defined as experience that demonstrates an essential understanding of the practice of landscape architecture.]

[Fee: Application, \$75. Initial license, \$200. Annual renewal, \$175.]

Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure

Licensure in another state provided that the standards of the other state are as stringent as those established by the board and provided that the applicant meets or exceeds the qualifications required of a landscape architect in New Mexico. [Applicants who are not CLARB certified must provide three letters of reference, official transcripts of educational records, and verification of practical experience.]

[Fee: Application, \$75. Initial license, \$200. Annual renewal, \$175.]

Eligibility Requirements – Emergency Licensure

Available to landscape architects currently licensed in a state where a federal disaster has been declared. This four-month license will be issued upon receipt of an application and proof of identity. Other verification may be required to be obtained from CLARB through the council record. The applicant must provide a sworn affidavit that he/she was personally or professionally affected by the disaster.

Practice Entities

No provisions.

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Seal Requirements

All plans, specifications and reports issued by a licensee have the licensee's signature placed across the licensee's seal/stamp.

Enforcement

Board powers: Conduct hearings, deny, suspend or revoke licenses, bring civil action in any district court to enforce the law.

Prohibitions/penalties: The board may take disciplinary action if a licensee or applicant: is guilty of fraud or misrepresentation in the procurement of a license; is subject to the imposition of any disciplinary action by another state which regulates landscape architects, but not to exceed the period or extent of that action; is grossly negligent or incompetent in his or her practice as a landscape architect; has failed to maintain licensure or complete the required continuing education; has violated or aided or abetted any person to violate the law or any adopted rules or regulations; or has engaged in unprofessional conduct. Violation of any provision of the law is a misdemeanor.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: Practicing or representing oneself as a landscape architect or landscape architect in-training is prohibited. Violation is a misdemeanor.

Advertising

Individuals representing other disciplines, professions, or skills must be identified by the particular skill area in advertising. When advertising under a specific discipline, there must be a New Mexico licensee in that field who can legally bind by contract the company, corporation or business. If only licensees within that profession or discipline are being listed, no special identification is required.

Mandatory Continuing Education

New Mexico requires landscape architects to complete 30 contact hours of continuing education as a condition of biennial renewal.

- Contact hour = at least 50 minutes of instruction or participation
- Excess hours may not be carried forward to subsequent reporting periods

Activities:

- Courses must be relevant to the design professions that are recognized as landscape architects, engineers, and architects
- College courses (3 semester hours = 30 CH; 3 quarter hours = 20 CH)
- Professional development in course work, seminars, professional conventions, workshops related to design professions (landscape architecture, interior design, engineering or architecture)
- Teaching credit is valid for teaching course or seminar for the first time only (15 CH)
- Each published professionally related paper, article, or book (10 CH)
- Professional presentations when presented at a national, state, regional or municipal program for the first time only (3 CH)
- Serving on federal, state or municipal boards and commissions as a design professional where one is elected or appointed (1 CH /month of service; maximum of 24 CH /biennium)
- Active participation in professional and technical societies and their committees (4 CH /biennium)
- Committee chair or elected official of a professional technical society (8 CH /biennium)
- Active participation in a public board specifically related to the practice of landscape architecture (non-salary; 8 CH /biennium)
- Business related courses (10 CH /biennium)

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- Self improvement courses (6 CH /biennium)
- Short subjects for design professionals
- Educational travel/independent study credit (8 CH /event; 16 CH /biennium)

Recordkeeping: Licensee has responsibility for maintaining three-year record, with sufficient detail to permit audit verification. The record must include a log showing the subject and type of activity claimed, the sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructor's name and the hours earned for the activity. Licensee must provide proof of compliance with license renewal application. Copies of records may be requested by the board for audit verification purposes.

Exemptions:

- New licensees whose first renewal is earlier than one year from the original date of licensure
- Licensees experiencing physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances as reviewed and approved by the board
- Licensees assigned to active military duty for more than 120 consecutive days are exempt from 15 hours required during that period

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