



Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

BLA Application Information

Incoming Class - Fall 2021

Thank you for your interest in the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree program. The BLA is an accredited professional design degree and completing it is the first step towards becoming a licensed landscape architect.

The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) defines our profession in this way:

Landscape architects analyze, plan, design, manage, and nurture the built and natural environments. Landscape architects have a significant impact on communities and quality of life. They design parks, campuses, streetscapes, trails, plazas, and other projects that help define a community.

On campus, landscape architects designed State Street (from the Capitol to the base of Bascom Hill), Memorial Union Terrace, Alumni Park and Picnic Point, among others. Landscape architects also led the Campus Master Plan and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. It's an exciting and creative profession that uses both science and art to create meaningful places for all people.

To be a part of the BLA program, just follow the application instructions below.

Before you begin your application, make sure you are familiar with the following:

- The BLA program (<https://dpla.wisc.edu/bsla-professional-degree/>),
- The program requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/planning-landscape-architecture/landscape-architecture-bla/#requirementstext>)
Please note: LA 211 is now an optional, rather than a required, prerequisite for applying to the BLA Program.
- The four-year plan (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/planning-landscape-architecture/landscape-architecture-bla/#fouryearplantext>)
- And the “how to get in” section of the Guide. **Please note: LA 211 is now an optional, rather than a required, prerequisite for applying to the BLA Program.**
<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/planning-landscape-architecture/landscape-architecture-bla/#howtogetintext>).

The new application deadline is May 26th, after which the BLA Committee will begin its review. You will receive a decision letter around June 15th.

If you are taking prerequisite courses during the summer, your application will be due after summer grades are available. Please let Debi Griffin (dagriffin@wisc.edu) know about your intention to apply after summer term ends.

Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture

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There are four steps in the application process administered through Canvas. Upon request, you will be “enrolled” in the application portal. You will submit everything as an “assignment” in Canvas. The 4 steps are described below. Except for Step #1, you may complete steps 2, 3, & 4 in any order and submit these at any time.

1. **Send an email to Prof. Dennis (samuel.dennis@wisc.edu) saying that you plan to apply to the BLA Program. He will enroll you in the BLA Application Canvas site.** Here you will submit three items: your letter of intent, your portfolio, and your DARS (must include grades for spring semester). The deadline for submittal is May 26th, but you may submit portions of your application at any time before then. You will receive a decision letter around June 15th.
2. Please submit a letter of intent of no more than 2 pages, single spaced. This letter should express why you are interested in the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program. Include any past experiences related to landscape architecture that you have had. Also address what aspects of the profession intrigue you, what you expect to obtain from your education, and your future goals to the extent that you've thought about them. Finally, briefly describe the five work examples you provided in your portfolio submission in #3 below. We will review the letter for content as well as communication skills.
3. Please put together a brief portfolio of your design or other creative work. Submit 5 examples, including work from your landscape architecture courses. Feel free to include other design or art examples as well. The portfolio should be submitted as a single 5-page (8.5x11) PDF document in landscape orientation. Each page should only include one image. Be sure to include your name.
4. Submit a copy of your DARS to complete the application. For instructions on how to access your DARS, click [here](#). Make sure that your spring semester grades are included.

For questions about the application procedures or any other matter related to the BLA program, contact Prof. Sam Dennis (samuel.dennis@wisc.edu) or Debi Griffin (dagriffin@wisc.edu).

On behalf of the BLA Program Committee and the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, thank you for your interest in the BLA program.

Sincerely,



Samuel F Dennis Jr, PhD, ASLA
Professor and Coordinator
Landscape Architecture Program
Dept. of Planning and Landscape Architecture
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