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Date: 18 February 2011

To: Randy Smith  
Vice Provost, Office of Academic Affairs

From: Ed McCaul   
Program Director, Undergraduate Education and Student Services

Subject: Semester Conversion Proposal for the Master of Landscape Architecture Degree

Attached is a letter from Ann Pendleton-Jullian, Director Knowlton School of Architecture, which discusses their Master of Landscape Architecture degree. This proposal has been reviewed by the College of Engineering and after some changes have been made to it the college is recommending that the Council on Academic Affairs approve it. If you have any questions concerning this proposal please let me know.

Date: 15 February 2011

From: Ann Pendleton-Jullian, Director  
Knowlton School of Architecture



To: Ed McCaul, Program Director  
Academic Affairs/Student Services  
College of Engineering

Subject: Landscape Architecture Semester Conversion Materials

The Landscape Architecture Section within the Knowlton School of Architecture is submitting the portion(s) of its semester conversion program templates that are checked below:

- BS in Landscape Architecture program template
- Master of Landscape Architecture program template
- Appendices that include:
  - o a proposal for a new undergraduate minor in Landscape Architecture
  - o a proposal for an undergraduate Honors program in Landscape Architecture

I endorse the contents of the enclosed program template(s). If you need further clarification or have any questions regarding the submitted materials, please do not hesitate to contact me and Landscape Architecture Section Head Jane Amidon. Note that the Knowlton School of Architecture does not have a uniform GE curriculum across its three Sections. Each Section develops a GE curriculum consistent with its particular undergraduate major program.

## Master of Landscape Architecture I & II

Primary Contact: Jane Amidon, Section Head (amidon.2, 2-0081)

### I. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. **Name of the Program:** Landscape Architecture
2. **Degree title:** Master of Landscape Architecture
3. **Academic unit(s) responsible for administrating the degree program:**  
Knowlton School of Architecture
4. **Type of Program**
  - d. Graduate degree program
5. **Semester Conversion Designation:**
  - b. Converted with minimal changes to program goals and/or curricular requirements.

### II. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### 6. **List program learning goals:**

As an accredited Landscape Architecture Program, core professional content is presented as focused, research based education with a global and interdisciplinary context. A student will attain:

Professional competency in the art and science of landscape architectural design, planning, implementation, stewardship, representation, history and theory, graduate level research and professional practice.

Adeptness in evaluation, visualization, conceptualization and manipulation of site media (plants, soils, water and more) to critically and creatively address cultural and environmental considerations;

A critical perspective that is ethically, ecologically and aesthetically grounded in responsible professional or academic practice;

Research abilities to expand the disciplinary body of knowledge as well as engage interdisciplinary perspectives.

## 7. Proposed Program Requirements:

The Master of Landscape Architecture degree is accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board of the American Society of Landscape Architects as a first-professional degree. For students entering with an undergraduate degree from outside the discipline (MLA I), the program typically takes a minimum of 3 years to complete. The MLA I consists of a total of 79 semester credit hours.

Students who are entering with an accredited undergraduate professional degree in landscape architecture (MLA II) typically complete the program in two years, having broadened their knowledge of landscape architecture and related disciplines while developing a specific expertise within the field. Typical of post-professional programs, the MLA II is not an accredited degree program, as students entering the program have already earned the professional degree required for licensure as a landscape architect. MLA II consists of a total of 48 semester credit hours.

**Required Internal Courses** (MLA I: 46 credit hours, MLA II: 15 credit hours)

### MLA I

*Students who are entering without an accredited undergraduate professional degree in landscape architecture must take the courses listed below.*

- LARCH 5367 Professional Practice, 3
- LARCH 6400 Grad LA Essentials Immersion, 2
- LARCH 6910 Grad LA Design Studio I: Design Process, 4
- LARCH 6410 Grad LA Workshop I: Design & Analysis, 3
- LARCH 6920 Grad LA Design Studio II: Urban Landscapes, 4
- LARCH 6420 Grad LA Workshop II: Design & Analysis, 3
- LARCH 6430 Grad LA Workshop III: Landscape Technologies, 3
- LARCH 6440 Grad LA Workshop IV: Landscape Technologies, 3
- LARCH 7950 Grad LA Design Studio V: Design in Detail, 6

### MLA I and MLA II

*All students are required to take the courses listed below.*

- LARCH 7930 Grad LA Design Studio III: Dynamic Sites & Systems, 6
- LARCH 7780 Graduate Research Methods, 3
- LARCH 7940 Grad LA Design Studio IV: Global Issues, 6

**Required External Course** (MLA I: 3 credit hours, MLA II: 0 credit hours)

*MLA I students are required to take the course below, to be combined with their core courses in fulfillment of accreditation requirements. This is not a requirement for MLA II students.*

- Equivalent to Horticulture and Crop Science 234/693: Landscape Plants, 3

**Landscape Architecture Electives (MLA I: 21 credit hours, MLA II: 12 credit hours)**

Graduate Seminars

*MLA I students are required to take two offerings of the course below for a total of 6 credit hours. MLA II students are required to take one offering of the course below for a total of 3 credit hours. Students elect to take the course when the topic offered meets their interests.*

LARCH 7890 Graduate Seminar in Landscape Architecture, 3 (repeatable)

History and Theory

*MLA I students select two of the following three non-sequential courses for a total of 6 credit hours. This is not a requirement for MLA II students.*

LARCH 5610 History & Theory I, 3  
LARCH 5620 History & Theory II, 3  
LARCH 5630 History & Theory III, 3

Research Sequence

*All students select one of two sets of two courses for a total of 9 credit hours.*

*Set 1:* LARCH 8990 Thesis Production Seminar, 3  
LARCH 8960 Grad LA Design Studio VI: Thesis Project, 6  
*Set 2:* LARCH 8992 Graduate Research Production Seminar, 3  
LARCH 8999 Thesis in Landscape Architecture, 6

**Open Electives (MLA I: 9 credit hours, MLA II: 21 credit hours)**

*MLA I students are required to take 9 credit hours of external or internal graduate-level elective coursework. MLA II students are required to take 21 credit hours of external or internal graduate-level elective coursework. External electives can be any advisor approved, graduate-level course offered across the university. Examples of internal electives include:*

LARCH 5960 Design Competition (cross listed with CRP/ARCH 5960), 3  
LARCH 5798<sup>1</sup> Study Tour in Landscape Architecture, 6  
LARCH 7189 Graduate LA Ecological Field Explorations, 2  
LARCH 7191 LA Graduate Internship, 8  
LARCH 7193 Graduate Independent Studies in LA, 1-4  
LARCH 7194 Graduate Group Studies in LA, 1-4  
LARCH 7370 Graduate Landscape Design Studies, 1-4  
LARCH 7410 Graduate Landscape Technologies, 1-3  
LARCH 7453 Graduate Visual Media Exploration, 1-3  
LARCH 7500 Grad Landscape Materials Exploration, 1-3  
LARCH 7600 Grad Landscape Topics in Research & Theory, 1-3  
LARCH 7700 Graduate Landscape Professional Topics, 1-3  
LARCH 7797 Institutional Graduate Study Abroad, 6  
LARCH 7798 International Graduate Study Abroad in Landscape Architecture, 6

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<sup>1</sup> This course (name and number) should replace LARCH 3798 Road Trips: US Landscapes, Ecologies & Cultures in the Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture Program Template document.

8. Provide a curriculum map that shows how, and at what level (e.g., beginning, intermediate, advanced), the program's courses facilitate students' attainment of program learning goals. I=Introduce, E=Enhance, A=Apply.

Required Courses - offered by the responsible unit	Program Learning Goals											
	Culture	Technical skills	Design /Planning				History & Theory	Professional Ethics	Prof. Comp.	Research	Ecology /Envir	Sustain
			Representation/Visualization	Evaluation/critical inquiry	Conceptualization	Aesthetic						
5367 Professional Practice	E	E	A			A	A	A			A	
5610 History & Theory I						E	A					
5620 History & Theory II						E						
5630 History & Theory III						E						
6400 Grad LA Essentials Immersion	I	I	I	I			I	I	I			
6410 Grad LA Workshop I: Design & Analysis			E								E	
6420 Grad LA Workshop II: Design & Analysis		E	E	E	E	I/E	E				E	
6430 Grad LA Workshop III: Landscape Technologies		E	E	A	A		E				E	
6440 Grad LA Workshop IV: Landscape Technologies	I		E	A	A	I			I			
6910 Grad LA Design Studio I: Design Process		I	I/E	I/E	I						I	
6920 Grad LA Design Studio II: Urban Landscapes	I/E		E	I/E	I/E	I	I	I	I		I	
7780 Graduate Research Methods	E	E	A	E	A	A	E	E			E	
7890 Graduate Seminar in Landscape Architecture	E/A		E/A	E/A		E/A			E/A			
7930 Grad LA Design Studio III: Dynamic Sites & Systems		E	E	A	A		A				E	
7940 Grad LA Design Studio IV: Global Issues	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		A		A	
7950 Grad LA Design Studio V: Design in Detail		A	A	A	A		A	A				
8960 Grad LA Design Studio VI: Thesis Project		A	A	A	A		A	A				
8990 Thesis Production Seminar		A	A			A	A	A	A			
8992 Graduate Research Production Seminar		A	A			A	A	A	A			
8999 Thesis in Landscape Architecture		A	A			A	A	A	A			

Required Courses - offered outside of the responsible unit	Culture	Technical skills	Design /Planning			History & Theory	Professional Ethics	Prof. Comp.	Research	Ecology /Envir	Sustain
			Representation/ Visualization	Evaluation/critical inquiry	Conceptualization						
Equiv. to HSC234/693: Landscape Plants		E/A						E/A	I/E		
<b>Elective Courses – offered by the responsible unit</b>	<b>Culture</b>	<b>Technical skills</b>	<b>Design /Planning</b>			<b>History &amp; Theory</b>	<b>Professional Ethics</b>	<b>Prof. Comp.</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Ecology /Envir</b>	<b>Sustain</b>
5798 Study Tour in Landscape Architecture	E/A		E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	
5960 Design Competition	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	
7189 Graduate LA Ecological Field Exploration	I/E		E/A	E/A	E/A			E/A	E/A	E/A	
7191 LA Graduate Internship	A	A	A			A	A	E/A		E/A	
7193 Graduate Independent Studies in LA			Topics vary								
7194 Graduate Group Studies in LA			Topics vary								
7370 Graduate Landscape Design Studies	A		E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	A	A	E/A	E/A	E/A
7410 Graduate Landscape Technologies	E/A	I/E	E/A		E/A	E/A			I/E		
7453 Graduate Visual Media Exploration	E/A	I/E	A		E/A	A	A		I/E		
7500 Grad Landscape Materials Exploration	E/A	I/E			E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	I/E		IE
7600 Grad Landscape Topics in Research & Theory	A			E/A		E/A	A	A	A		E/A
7700 Graduate Landscape Professional Topics	A	A		E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	A	E/A		E/A
7797 Institutional Graduate Study Abroad	E/A	E/A	E/A			E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A
7798 International Graduate Study in Landscape Architecture	E/A		E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A	E/A

**9. Rationale for proposed program changes:**

The Master of Landscape Architecture program curriculum was originally adopted in February 2008 after several years of study. It was rolled out Autumn 2009 and will be fully operational by Autumn 2011. During this period the University made the commitment to move to the semester schedule. In response, the curriculum was redeveloped as a semester-based program, then reverse engineered as a quarter-based program during the interim between quarters and semesters.

In the prior curriculum, technical content was equally balanced with design. In reaction to accreditation recommendations, the new curriculum includes greater design and graduate research emphasis, while delivering professional skills and technologies within integrated workshops that happen earlier in the curriculum. The currently proposed curriculum seeks to retain a strong technical core, while enhancing design, design theory, history, critical evaluation and inquiry in the field. Faculty and students have embraced this direction as well as our professional and alumni community. The program was reviewed by the Landscape Architectural Accrediting Board (LAAB) in spring 2010 and received the maximum re-accreditation period of six years.



**10. Council on Academic Affairs reviewers' aid and credit hour expansion check:**

**MLA I:** *Three year program for students who are entering without an accredited undergraduate professional degree in landscape architecture:*

Program credit hour requirements:		A.) Number of credit hours in current program	B.) Calculated result for $\frac{2}{3}$ of current quarter credit hours	C.) Number of credit hours required for new program
Total minimum credit hours required for completion of program		119	79.3	79
Required credit hours offered by the unit	Min	103	68.7	67
	Max	119	79.3	76
Required credit hours offered outside of the unit	Min	0	0	0
	Max	15	10	12
Required prerequisite credit hours not included above	Min	0	0	0
	Max	0	0	0

**MLA II:** *Two year program for students who are entering with an accredited undergraduate professional degree in landscape architecture:*

Program credit hour requirements:		A.) Number of credit hours in current program	B.) Calculated result for $\frac{2}{3}$ of current quarter credit hours	C.) Number of credit hours required for new program
Total minimum credit hours required for completion of program		71	47.3	48
Required credit hours offered by the unit	Min	36	24	26
	Max	71	47.3	48
Required credit hours offered outside of the unit	Min	0	0	0
	Max	35	23.3	21
Required prerequisite credit hours not included above	Min	0	0	0
	Max	0	0	0

**11. Credit hour expansion rationale:**

No rationale necessary.

### **III. ASSESSMENT CONVERSION**

12. Describe how the program's current quarter-based assessment practices will be modified to fit the semester calendar. If a degree program does not have a plan on file with the Office of Academic Affairs, provide a list of the following:

- a. The means the program uses / will use to evaluate how well students are attaining program goals.

#### **Standardized tests**

The pass rate on the Landscape Architecture Registration/Licensing I Exam (LARE) would be an indication of how well the program is achieving its goals of instruction in design and the foundation content in the discipline, except for three things:

- A difficulty with the exam as “measure” is that it is not taken until graduates have worked for two (2) years under the supervision of a registered/licensed landscape architect, blurring any direct correlation with the Academic program.
- Data are privately held by LAAB and CLARB, making anecdotal reporting the only means of securing a sense of alumni performance on the exam, such as how many times a candidate sat for the exam before successful performance and licensure.
- Self-reporting on Alumni Surveys is strongest data set available, but is skewed by variable response rates and the self-sorting of those who choose to respond/or not.

#### **Classroom assignments**

1. Embedded testing (i.e., specific questions in homework or exams that allow faculty to assess students' attainment of a specific learning goal or outcome, often used to compare student performance from year to year)
2. Writing assignments
3. Oral presentations
4. Studio projects
5. Critical evaluation assignments

#### **Surveys and Interviews**

1. Alumni survey
2. Co-op sponsor survey
3. Guest Critic comments and feedback (formal and informal)
4. Student evaluation of instruction
5. Student exit survey

#### **External evidences**

1. Job placement data
2. Awards achieved by students and alumni
3. External program review by the Landscape Architectural Accrediting Board
4. Periodic review and discussion with professional advisory board as to program direction and development.
5. The Production and Publication of materials directly emerging from student thesis and studio work.

- b. How the program uses / will use the evaluation data listed above to periodically make evidence-based improvements to the program.
  1. Representative(s) of student body will be included in evaluation of the program.
  2. A discussion with the unit's faculty will occur.
  3. A discussion with the unit's Auxiliary faculty will occur
  4. Surveys of Alumni and Exit surveys of graduates will occur on an annual basis.
  5. An annual report is submitted to the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board, with a full Self Evaluation Report (SER) prepared on at least a five-six-year basis and submitted to LAAB, who will perform an onsite program review.
  6. Based on information in resulting LAAB report, adjustments will be made to course content and delivery and as appropriate courses will be added or subtracted.
  7. Regular review the program's performance against the top programs in the field will occur.
  8. As part of OAA's Academic Program Reviews, the section will take the opportunity to evaluate and improve the curriculum, program and educational delivery

#### **IV. TRANSITION POLICY**

13. **Include a policy statement from the chair of the department / unit that assures those students who began their degree under quarters that the transition to semesters will not delay their graduation or disrupt progress toward a degree:**

Students who begin the Master of Landscape Architecture program will be able to proceed with progress towards their degree without delay or disruption. Advisors will meet with all students to develop an individualized transition plan at least one year in advance of the semester conversion. Students will be provided with transition plans that ensure courses taken to date will be applied to complete their degree. Where appropriate students may take an independent or group studies course with a faculty member to fulfill any courses which are core requirements under the quarter degree plan, but that will not be available under the semester degree program.

**Appendix A Quarter and Semester Curriculum Sheets**

**Master of Landscape Architecture - Current (quarters-based) Curriculum Advising Sheet**

<b>MLA I: year 1</b>  SITE MATTERS	Fall	LARCH 603 History & Theory I	5	13
		LARCH 640 Graduate Foundation Studio I	5	
		LARCH 670 Graduate Analysis & Communication Workshop I	3	
	Winter	LARCH 642 Graduate Foundation Studio II	5	15
		LARCH 672 Graduate Analysis & Communication Workshop II	3	
		LARCH 760 Evaluation and Criticism in Landscape Architecture	2	
		Elective	5	
	Spring	LARCH 644 Graduate Foundation Studio III	5	14
		LARCH 702 Graduate Analysis & Communication Workshop III	4	
		HCS 234/693 Landscape Plants	5	

<b>MLA I: year 2</b> <b>MLA II: year 1</b>  SYNTHESIS	Fall	LARCH 620 Landscape Technologies I	5	15
		LARCH 750 Advanced Graduate Studio I	5	
		LARCH 760 Evaluation and Criticism in LA	2	
		Elective	3	
	Winter	LARCH 622 Landscape Technologies II	5	15
		LARCH 633 Advanced Graduate Studio II	5	
		LARCH 663 Professional Practice Seminar	5	
	Spring	LARCH 626 Landscape Technologies III	3	16
		LARCH 740 Research and Documentation in LA	5	
		LARCH 750/754 Advanced Graduate Studio – Travel/Vertical	5	
		Elective	3	

<b>MLA I: year 3</b> <b>MLA II: year 2</b>  <b>LAUNCH</b>	Fall	LARCH 750/658 Advanced Graduate Studio III	5	12
		LARCH 760 Evaluation and Criticism in LA	2	
		Elective	5	
		Masters Thesis Proposal	n/a	
	Winter	LARCH 760/801 Thesis Pro-Seminar	2	10
		LARCH 624/625 Construction and Materials	3	
		LARCH 998 Thesis in Landscape Architecture 2	1-15*	
	Spring	LARCH 998 Thesis in Landscape Architecture 2	1-15*	10*
		LARCH 750/754 Advanced Graduate Studio – Travel/Vertical	5	
		Elective	3	
		LARCH 760/802 Thesis Production Seminar	2	

\*This course may be repeated up to 99 credit hours. Only 5 credit hours count toward graduation.

TOTAL: 119

**Master of Landscape Architecture – Semester-based Curriculum Advising Sheet**

<b>MLA I: year 1</b>  <b>SITE MATTERS</b>	Fall	LARCH 6400 Grad LA Essentials Immersion	2	15
		LARCH 6910 Grad LA Design Studio I: Design Process	4	
		LARCH History & Theory selection (I, II, or III)	3	
		LARCH 6410 Grad LA Workshop I: Design & Analysis	3	
		Open Elective	3	
	Spring	LARCH 6920 Grad LA Design Studio II: Urban Landscapes	4	13
		LARCH 6420 Grad LA Workshop II: Design & Analysis	3	
		LARCH 7890 Graduate Seminar in Landscape Architecture	3	
		Equivalent to HCS 234/693 Landscape Plants	3	

<i>MLA I: year 2</i> <i>MLA II: year 1</i>  SYNTHESIS	Fall	LARCH 7930 Grad LA Design Studio III: Dynamic Sites & Systems	6	15 or 12
		LARCH 6430 Grad LA Workshop III: Landscape Technologies <u>OR</u> Open Elective	3	
		LARCH 7780 Graduate Research Methods	3	
		LARCH 5367 Professional Practice <u>OR</u> No course	3 or 0	
	Spring	LARCH 7940 Grad LA Design Studio IV: Global Issues	6	12
		LARCH 6440 Grad LA Workshop IV: Landscape Technologies <u>OR</u> Open Elective	3	
LARCH History & Theory (I, II or III) <u>OR</u> Open Elective		3		

<i>MLA I: year 3</i> <i>MLA II: year 2</i>  LAUNCH	Fall	LARCH 7950 Grad LA Design Studio V: Design in Detail <u>OR</u> 2 Open Electives	6	12
		Open Elective	3	
		LARCH 7890 Graduate Seminar in Landscape Architecture	3	
	Spring	LARCH 8990 Thesis Production Seminar <u>OR</u> LARCH 8992 Graduate Research Production Seminar	3	12
		LARCH 8960 Grad LA Design Studio VI: Thesis Project <u>OR</u> LARCH 8999 Thesis in Landscape Architecture	6	
		Open Elective	3	

TOTAL: 79