



Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

ASLA Summary of Provisions

ALABAMA

Code of Alabama: Title 34, Chapter 17
Administrative Code: Chapter 500-X-1

Type of Law: Practice/title act. Sunset date: 10/1/2015

Alabama State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects

Consists of three landscape architects appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Financed through dedicated fund.

Powers: Adopt rules, regulations and disciplinary code.

Definitions

Landscape architect: A person who is engaged or offers to engage in the practice of landscape architecture.

Practice of landscape architecture: Professional services such as consultation, investigation, research, planning, design, preparation of drawings and specifications and responsible supervision in connection with the development of land areas where, and to the extent that the dominant purpose of such services is the preservation, enhancement or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, planting, naturalistic and aesthetic values, the settings and approaches to structures or other improvements, the setting of grades and determining drainage and providing for standard drainage structures, and the consideration and determination of environmental problems of land including erosion, blight and other hazards. This practice shall include the design of such tangible objects and features, as are incidental and necessary to the purpose outlined herein. The law specifically exempts the making of land surveys of final plats for official approval or recordation. [Rendering or offering to render services to clients, including any one or any combination of the professional services specified in this section.]

Exemptions

Interprofessional practice: The law exempts architects, engineers, and land surveyors and their employees when acting under the licensees' supervision, for work incidental to their practice.

Exempt persons:

- Any person who acts under the supervision of a licensee or an employee of a licensee and who in either event does not assume responsible charge of design or supervision.
- Employees of the United States government while in the practice of landscape architecture for the government.
- Any person practicing planning as customarily done by regional or urban planners.
- Arborists, foresters, gardeners, home builders and horticulturists; or nurseryman, general or landscape contractors, such practice to include design, planning, location and arrangements of plantings or other ornamental features.

Exempt Structures: Structures or facilities with separate and self-contained purposes such as are ordinarily included in the practice of engineering or architecture.

Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure

Successful completion of [the LARE and a supplemental exam testing the applicants knowledge of the state statute and rules pertaining to landscape architecture]; With a board-approved degree in landscape architecture, an applicant must have six combined years of education & experience, which may include up to five years of education (bachelor's, master's and doctoral education can be applied). In lieu of graduation from an approved landscape architecture program, applicants may qualify with at least eight years of

Note: Bracketed [] material is drawn from regulations.

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approved practical experience. Alabama is phasing out the experience-only option and candidates in this category must have begun meeting this requirement with experience attained before August 1, 2012. Applicants must also be U.S. citizens or those legally present in the U.S. with appropriate documentation from the federal government.

[**Fee:** Initial license, \$125 (\$75 application fee + \$50 for initial certificate). Annual renewal, \$150.]

Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure

Successful completion of [an examination prepared by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) with a grade equal to or greater than the minimum passing grade determined by CLARB]; and the individual is from a state or country with a substantially similar system and standard of qualifications and examinations for a landscape architect license and the state or country gives similar recognition and endorsement to landscape architect licenses of this state.

[**Fee:** \$150.]

Practice Entities

Practice through a corporation or partnership is permitted, upon authorization by the board, provided that one or more of the corporate officers in the case of a corporation, or one or more of the partners in the case of a partnership, is a licensee designated as being responsible for the professional services. All personnel of the corporation or partnership who act in its behalf as landscape architects must be licensed. A certificate of authorization is required.

[**Fee:** \$50.]

Seal Requirements

All final drawings, specifications, plans, reports or other papers or documents when issued or filed for public record, shall be dated and bear the signature and seal of the landscape architect or landscape architects who prepared or approved them. [Allows landscape architect to affix an electronically generated signature with proper security measures.]

Enforcement

Board powers: Reprimand licensees, refuse to issue, suspend or revoke licenses, and levy administrative fines not to exceed \$250.

Department powers: Conduct investigations, hold hearings, administer oaths and affirmations, examine witnesses and receive evidence.

Prohibitions/penalties: Licensees may be disciplined for: practicing in violation of the law; obtaining a license by fraud or misrepresentation; impersonating a licensee or former licensee of the same or similar name, practicing under an assumed, fictitious or corporate name; aiding or abetting unlicensed practice; being found guilty of fraud or deceit or negligence or willful misconduct or gross incompetence; affixing a signature to plans, drawings, specifications or other instruments of service which have not been prepared by the licensee or under his or her immediate and responsible direction; permitting his or her name to be used for the purpose of assisting an unlicensed person to evade the provisions of the law.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: Practicing landscape architecture or using the title or term “landscape architect” or “registered landscape architect” in any sign, card, listing, advertisement, or in any other manner implying or indicating that one is a landscape architect is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor.

Mandatory Continuing Education

Alabama requires landscape architects to complete 16 professional development hours per annual renewal period.

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- PDH = Professional Development Hour (not less than 50 minutes of instruction)
- 16 or fewer extra PDH earned between 10/15 and 12/31 may be carried over to next year
- CE must be “relevant to the practice of landscape architecture and may include technical, ethical or managerial content”
- At least 8 PDH must be directly relevant to the public health, safety and welfare. Examples of such subjects include, but are not limited to, design, environmental systems, site design, land use analysis, grading and drainage, storm water management, playground safety, erosion control, site and soils analyses, accessibility, building codes, life safety, review of state registration laws including the rules of professional conduct, evaluation and selection of products and materials, cost analysis, construction methods, contract documentation construction contract administration, construction administration and project management.

Administration:

- Board appoints CE Committee with 5 members (majority landscape architects)
- Reviews and pre-approves all sponsors and programs
- Establishes methods of documentation to fulfill CE requirements
- Committee responsible for determining whether a course meets HSW requirements (appeals heard by full board)

Activities:

- There must be a clear purpose and objective for each activity that will maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge prior to initial licensure or to develop new and relevant skills and knowledge
- Completing/ monitoring college*-sponsored courses (also teaching/instructing)
- Completing courses that award CEUs (also teaching/instructing)
- Attending seminars, tutorials, short courses, correspondence courses, televised courses or videotaped courses (also teaching/instructing)
- In-house programs by corporations or other organizations (also teaching/instructing)
- Authoring published papers, articles, or books (upon publication, up to 25 PDH)
- Making presentations at technical meetings
- Attending presentations at technical or professional meetings
- Semester hour = 45 PDH; quarter hour = 30 PDH; monitoring courses are recorded as 1/3 of PDH (e.g., semester hour = 15 PDH); teaching recorded as 2x PDH
- 1 CEU = 10 PDH
- The Board does not encourage meeting continuing education requirements through correspondence courses. Correspondence course PDH may be acceptable, however the licensee should submit supporting documentation to demonstrate high quality education from the course.

Recordkeeping: Licensee has responsibility for maintaining three-year record, as specified. Must provide sufficient detail to permit audit verification. The information is submitted with renewal application and fee.

Reciprocity: Continuing education requirements may be met without completing the Alabama form if a licensee resides in another state that is listed by the Board as having continuing education requirements essentially equal or more stringent and the registrant certifies that all continuing education and registration requirements for that state have been met. The board no longer lists specific states, but does accept courses by LA CES-approved providers.

Exemptions:

* Unless otherwise noted in this report, the term “college” refers to both universities and colleges.

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- Licensees in the first renewal period
- Non-career military personnel on active duty more than 120 consecutive days in a calendar year
- Licensees employed as a landscape architect that have been assigned to duty outside the U.S. for more than 120 consecutive days in a calendar year
- Due to physical disability, illness or other extenuating circumstances, as approved by the board
- Retired licensees or licensees age 65 and over

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