



# Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

## ASLA Summary of Provisions

### ARKANSAS

Arkansas Code: Title 17, Chapter 36  
Arkansas Board of Landscape Architects Rules

**Type of Law:** Practice/title act.

#### **Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers**

The nine-member board consists of one landscape architect, five architects, one interior designer, and two public members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The program director of the University of Arkansas School of Architecture landscape architecture program is a non-voting member. Board financed through dedicated fund.

#### **Definitions**

Landscape architect: A licensed landscape architect.

Landscape architecture: Any service or other work, the adequate performance of which requires landscape architectural education, training, and experience; the performances of professional services such as consultation, investigation, reconnaissance, research, associated planning, design, preparation of drawings, specifications, and contract documents, and responsible supervision or construction management in connection with the development of land areas or water features where, and to the extent that, the dominant purpose of such services is land development, the preservation, enhancement, or determination of land uses, natural land features, and functional and aesthetic values; the determination, location, and construction of aesthetically pleasing and functional approaches and settings for features in the landscape, plantings, landscape irrigation, landscape lighting layout, landscape grading, and landscape drainage; environmental planning; and the design of tangible objects and features necessary to the purpose outlined herein.

[Appropriate design professional: the individual who is most responsible for the portion of the work that reflects that individual's discipline or area of expertise. Examples of design professionals include architects, civil engineers, structural engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, landscape architects, and registered interior designers.]

[Emeritus landscape architect: A registrant who has retired from the active practice of landscape architecture and who is 65 years of age or older. At the discretion of the board, a registrant of any age who has become incapacitated may be granted emeritus status. An emeritus landscape architect may use the title "landscape architect," but may not practice landscape architecture.]

#### **Exemptions**

Interprofessional practice: The law exempts the practice of architecture and engineering as defined by the laws of the state.

Exempt persons:

- A person acting under the supervision of a licensee or a person who is 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 engaged in the practice of landscape architecture within the state on behalf of the United States Government.
- Employees of a municipal government while providing landscaping services for municipal facilities.
- Regional and urban planners in the practice of planning as is customarily done by those professionals.

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.



- Arborists, foresters, gardeners, nurserymen, landscape contractors, home builders, floriculturists, ornamental horticulturists, landscape designers, irrigation designers, and irrigation contractors performing their respective trades or professions.

Exempt structures: The design of buildings, structures, or facilities ordinarily included in the practice of architecture or engineering.

#### **Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure**

Requirements: Passage of CLARB examination. Eligibility for examination may be achieved by the following combinations of education and experience: an accredited degree in landscape architecture and two years of experience in landscape architecture; a degree in a field related to landscape architecture and four years of experience; or seven years of experience satisfactory to the board. The board may require a CLARB certificate. *Note that the board rules only allow for those with an LAAB-accredited degree to qualify for licensure, but the statute provides for eligibility for those with a degree in a related field or 7 years of experience.*

[Fee: Initial license, \$250. Annual renewal \$100.]

#### **Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure**

Requirements: [Must hold current and valid CLARB record, a degree from an LAAB-accredited program, passed the LARE, and holds a valid license as a landscape architect issued by a authority of the US.] *Note that the board rules only allow for those with an LAAB-accredited degree to qualify for licensure, but the statute provides for eligibility for those with a degree in a related field or 7 years of experience.*

[Fee: Initial license, \$250. Annual renewal \$100.]

#### **Emeritus Status**

[Licensees who are retired from active practice who are 65 years of age or older may request emeritus status.]

#### **Practice Entities**

No provisions regarding registration of business entities.

#### **Seal Requirements**

All plans, specifications [and original contract documents, including index sheets identifying all drawings covered, as well as cover and index pages identifying all specification pages covered] prepared by or under the supervision of the licensee shall bear his/her seal.

#### **Enforcement**

Board powers: The examining body has the power to deny, suspend, or revoke licenses. It shall be the duty of all duly constituted officers of the law of this state, and all political subdivisions thereof, to enforce the provisions of this chapter and to prosecute any person violating the provisions thereof. May levy civil fine not to exceed \$1000 for each violation. The Attorney General or his assistants shall act as legal advisor to the board and shall render legal assistance necessary in carrying out the provisions of this chapter. The committee may employ other legal advice necessary for the proper conduct of its affairs.

Prohibitions/penalties: Practicing in violation of the law or in violation of the proper rules and regulations; obtaining a license by fraud or misrepresentation; making any payment of money, except the regular fees, for the license; falsely impersonating a practitioner or former practitioner of a like or different name or practicing under an assumed or fictitious name; being guilty of a felony; being guilty of fraud or deceit or of gross negligence or misconduct in the practice of landscape architecture; affixing, or permitting to be affixed, the licensee's seal or name to any plans, specifications, drawings, or related documents which were not prepared by the licensee or under his or her responsible supervisory control; committing gross unprofessional conduct; having a professional license suspended or revoked; having disciplinary action taken by a regulating body of another state; surrendering or not renewing a license after the initiation of any

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investigation or proceeding; or being adjudged mentally incapable by a court of competent jurisdiction, are causes for which licenses may be revoked.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: Practicing landscape architecture without a license; using the title of landscape architect without a license; presenting as one's own the license of another; giving false or forged evidence to the committee or any member thereof in obtaining a license; falsely impersonating any other practitioner of like or different name; using or attempting to use a license that has been revoked; violating any of the provisions of the law is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 and/or imprisonment for not more than one year.

### **Mandatory Continuing Education**

Arkansas requires 12 CEH for the annual licensure renewal.

- CEH = A continuing education hour refers to one continuous hour (50 to 60 minutes of contact) spent in structured educational activities intended to increase or update the landscape architect's knowledge and competence in health, safety, and welfare subjects. If the provider of the structured educational activities prescribes a customary time for completion of such an activity, then such prescribed time shall, unless the board finds the prescribed time to be unreasonable, be accepted as the landscape architect's time for continuing education purposes, irrespective of actual time spent on the activity.
- Continuing education is defined as learning that enables a landscape architect to regularly increase or update knowledge of and competence in technical and professional subjects related to the practice of landscape architecture to safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare.
- Health, safety, and welfare subjects are technical and professional courses that the board deems appropriate to safeguard the public and are within the following areas necessary for the proper evaluation, design, construction and utilization of buildings and the built environment: (a) : legal (laws, codes, zoning, regulations, standards, life-safety, accessibility, ethics, insurance to protect owners and public); technical (surveying, structural, mechanical, electrical, communication, fire protection, controls, site grading, irrigation systems); environmental (energy efficiency, sustainability, natural resources, natural hazards, hazardous materials waterproofing, insulation, stormwater management); occupant comfort (air quality, lighting, acoustics, ergonomics); materials and methods (building systems, products, finishes, furnishings, equipment); preservation (historic, reuse, adaptation) pre-design (land use analysis, programming, site selection, site and soils analysis); design (urban planning, master planning, building design, site design, interiors, safety and security measures); construction documents (drawings, specifications, delivery methods); and construction administration (contract, bidding, contract negotiations).

### **Administration:**

- Board forms CE Committee, consisting of 3 members (including 2 board members), with supervisory authority over CE
- Board reviews each CEU report, and has the authority to audit any report

### **Activities:**

- Structured educational activities are courses of study in which at least 75% of the activities' content and instructional time is devoted to acceptable HSW. These subjects must be related to the practice of landscape architecture including courses of study, monographs, or other activities under the areas identified as HSW subjects, and they must be provided by qualified individuals or organizations, whether delivered by direct contact or distance learning methods.
- Courses listed by LA CES and AIA/CES are deemed acceptable (HSW only), as well as courses provided by ASLA and AIA.
- Successfully completing one or more college semester/quarter hours in landscape architectural subjects satisfies the CE requirement for the year in which the course was completed
- Seminars, lectures, presentations, workshops or course

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- Tutorials, short courses, correspondence courses, Web-based courses, monographs and other self-study courses

Recordkeeping: Documentation must be submitted with an affidavit with the annual renewal. Licensees must keep documentation for six years.

Exemptions:

- New licensees in the first renewal period
- Licensees with emeritus status
- Licensee who is a civilian who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces for a period of time exceeding 90 consecutive days during the annual reporting period.
- Licensee experiencing physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances may request exemption from the continuing education requirements. The hardship request must be received by June 1 in advance of the renewal period.

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