



# Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

## ASLA Summary of Provisions

### FLORIDA

Florida Statutes: Title 32, Chapter 481, Part II  
Florida Administrative Rules: Chapter 61G10-10

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

#### **Board of Landscape Architecture**

Consists of five licensed landscape architects and two public members. Financed through dedicated fund (licensing fees).

Powers: Adopt rules as necessary.

#### **Definitions**

**Landscape architect:** A person who holds a license to practice landscape architecture in the state.

**Landscape architecture:** Consultation, investigation, research, planning, design, preparation of drawings, specifications, contract documents and reports, responsible construction supervision, or landscape management in connection with the planning and development of land and incidental water areas, including the use of Florida-friendly landscaping, where, and to the extent that, the dominant purpose of such services or creative works is the preservation, conservation, enhancement, or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, ground cover and plantings, or naturalistic and aesthetic values. The determination of settings, grounds, and approaches for and the siting of buildings and structures, outdoor areas, or other improvements. The setting of grades, shaping and contouring of land and water forms, determination of drainage, and provision for storm drainage and irrigation systems where such systems are necessary to the purposes outlined herein. The design of such tangible objects and features as are necessary to the purpose outlined herein. [Consultation, research, analysis and assessment, selection and allocation of land and water resources. Formulation of graphic and written criteria to govern the planning and design of land construction and development plans pertinent to the practice of landscape architecture, including: (a) the preparation, review and analysis of master and site plans, and the review and analysis of subdivision and land development plans; (b) reconnaissance, planning, design and preparation of drawings, construction documents and specifications, and responsible construction supervision; (c) The preparation and submittal of stormwater management plans and permit applications, environmental plans and permit applications, and environmental mitigation plans consistent with applicable laws, rules and regulations. Consultation, coordination and review of technical submissions, plans and construction documents prepared by other professionals, or others, working under the authority of a registered landscape architect. Land preservation, restoration, conservation, reclamation, rehabilitation, management and development, and where appropriate the performance of such with other design professionals. Feasibility studies, site selection, cost estimates, and reports associated with the development of land and incidental water areas. Integration, site analysis, and determination of the location of buildings, structures, pedestrian systems, transportation systems, and environmental systems. Analysis and design of grading and drainage, stormwater management, irrigation, systems for erosion and sediment control, and pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems where such systems are pertinent to the practice of landscape architecture. Determination and placement of site improvements including the design of site amenities, accessibility components, plantings and other tangible objects and features associated with the practice of landscape architecture. Analysis, design, construction and management of wetlands, and where appropriate the performance of such with other design professionals. Analysis, design, and construction of Florida-friendly landscape systems.]

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.



[Tangible objects and features: Steps and ramps; fountains and pools; fences, screens, dividers and walls; overhead structures (i.e. trellis); decks; retaining walls; play equipment; benches and planters; drainage structures; lighting; pavement; curbs; planting; site furnishings.]

Landscape design: Consultation for and preparation of planting plans drawn for compensation, including specifications and installation details for plant materials, soil amendments, mulches, edging, gravel, and other similar materials. Such plans may include only recommendations for the conceptual placement of tangible objects for landscape design projects. Construction documents, details, and specifications for tangible objects and irrigation systems shall be designed or approved by licensed professionals as required by law.

### Exemptions

Interprofessional practice: Architects and engineers are exempt but may not hold themselves out as landscape architects.

Exempt persons:

- Employees of licensees who are acting under the instructions, control, or supervision of their employers.
- Builders or superintendents employed by builders who are supervising the installation of landscape projects by landscape contractors.
- General contractors negotiating or performing services under a design-build contract, as long as the landscape architectural services offered or rendered in connection with the contract are offered and rendered by a landscape architect, an architect, or an engineer.
- Any person making any plans, drawings, or specifications for any real or personal property owned by him or her so long as he or she does not use the title landscape architect.
- Any nurseryman, nursery stock dealer, or agent who is required to be, and who is, licensed to engage in the business of selling nursery stock, insofar as he or she engages in the preparation of plans or drawings as an adjunct to merchandising his or her product, so long as he or she does not use the title landscape architect.
- Persons engaging in the practice of landscape design as long as they do not hold themselves out as landscape architects. This also includes submitting for approval to a governmental agency planting plans that are independent of, or a component of, construction documents that are prepared by a Florida-registered professional.
- Persons, corporations, partnerships, or associations preparing comprehensive plans or practicing comprehensive urban or rural planning at the local, regional, or state level.
- Persons who perform landscape architectural services not for compensation, or in their capacity as employees of municipal or county governments, however, persons who are hired under the title "landscape architect" by any state, county, municipality, or other governmental unit are required to be licensed. Nothing herein shall preclude a county or municipal employee from performing the functions of this part for his or her governmental employer under a different title.
- A person engaging in the practice of, or offering to practice as, a golf course architect, defined as; performing professional services such as consultation, investigation, reconnaissance, research, design, preparation of drawings and specifications, and responsible supervision, where the predominant purpose of such service is the design of a golf course.

### Eligibility Requirements – Temporary Certificate

Allows the department to grant a temporary certificate of registration for work on a specified project in Florida for a period not to exceed 1 year to an applicant who is licensed in another state or territory to practice landscape architecture. Similar certificates are also available to an out-of-state corporation, partnership, or firm, provided one of the principal officers of the corporation, one of the partners of the partnership, or one of the principals in the fictitiously named firm has obtained a temporary certificate of registration.

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Summary of Licensure Laws: Florida

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Page 2

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

Requirements: Completion of a professional degree program in landscape architecture as approved by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board and one year of approved practical experience; or seven years of practical experience acceptable to the board. Also requires passage of test on plant materials and specialized aspects of practice in Florida, including laws and regulations.

Experience requirements must be obtained under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect. For applicants without an accredited degree, applicants must demonstrate specific elements of practice, with two examples of work in each of the following: site design; staking/layout plan; grading and drainage plan; irrigation plan; construction details; planting plan; and specifications. For applicants with an accredited degree, the one-year experience requirement must include 2000 hours of landscape architectural work in the practice areas also required for other applicants (above).

Fee: [Initial license \$450 (\$225 in second year). Biennial renewal, \$225.]

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

Requirements: Holds a valid license to practice landscape architecture issued by another state or territory of the United States, if the criteria for issuance of such license were substantially identical to the licensure criteria which existed in Florida at the time the license was issued.

Fee: [Application fee, \$150. Initial license \$450 (\$225 in second year). Biennial renewal, \$225.]

### **Practice Entities**

Practice through a corporation or partnership is permitted pursuant to a certificate of authorization from the board provided that one or more of the principal officers of the corporation or partnership and all personnel of these entities who act in its behalf as landscape architects, must be licensees. No corporation or partnership shall be relieved of responsibility for the conduct or acts of its agents, employees, or officers.

Fee: [Initial certificate \$450 and biennial renewal, \$337.50.]

### **Seal Requirements**

All plans, specifications, or reports prepared or issued by a landscape architect and filed for public record must be signed by the licensee, dated, and stamped with her or his seal. No licensee may affix or permit to be affixed his or her seal or name to any plan, specification, drawing, or other document which was not prepared by him or her or under his or her responsible supervising control or which was not reviewed, approved, or modified, and adopted by him or her as his or her own work with full responsibility as a landscape architect for such documents. No registered landscape architect shall affix, or permit to be affixed, his seal or signature to any work the registrant is not competent to perform. Statute and regulations provide for the use of electronic seals and signatures for electronic transmission of plans, specifications and reports.

### **Enforcement**

Board powers: Denial of an application for licensure, revocation or suspension of a license, issuance of a reprimand, probation or restriction of the authorized scope of practice, imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each count or separate offense.

Prohibitions/penalties: Attempting to procure a license by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentations; having a license revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including the denial of licensure, by the licensing authority of another jurisdiction; being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of landscape architecture or the ability to practice landscape architecture.

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Summary of Licensure Laws: Florida

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Page 3

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Further prohibitions include; making or filing a report or record that the licensee knows to be false, willfully failing to file a report or record required by state or federal law, willfully impeding or obstructing such filing, or inducing another person to impede or obstruct such filing. Such reports or records include only those that are signed in the capacity of a licensed landscape architect; advertising goods or services in a manner that is fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading in form or content; committing an act of fraud or deceit, or of negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of landscape architecture; violation of any rule adopted by the board; practicing on a revoked, suspended, inactive, or delinquent license; aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising any unlicensed person to practice landscape architecture; failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensed landscape architect.

Prohibitions relative to seal requirements include; affixing or permitting to be affixed the licensee's seal or name to any plan, specification, drawing, or other document which was not prepared by him or her or under his or her responsible supervising control or which was not reviewed, approved, or modified, and adopted by him or her as his or her own work.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: Practicing landscape architecture; using the name or title "landscape architect," "landscape architecture," "landscape architectural," "landscape engineering," "L.A.," or words to that effect, or advertising any title or description tending to convey the impression that an unlicensed person is a landscape architect; presenting as his or her own the license of another; giving false or forged evidence to the board or a member; using or attempting to use a landscape architect license that has been suspended, revoked, or placed on inactive or delinquent status; employing unlicensed persons to practice landscape architecture; aiding and abetting an unauthorized person in the practice of landscape architecture; or concealing information relative to violations of the law. Violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor punishable by a term of not more than one year or a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for the first offense.

### **Advertising**

Each registered landscape architect and each firm holding a certificate of authorization shall include its certificate number in any newspaper, telephone directory, or other advertising medium used by the licensee or firm. A firm is not required to display the certificate numbers of individual registered landscape architects employed by or practicing with the firm.

A landscape architect or firm may advertise in any medium, including the telephone directory yellow pages, even if no office is physically present in the area of the advertisement. Such advertisement or listing in the telephone directory, however, shall not mislead the public into believing that the phone number and address given is capable of delivering landscape architectural services to the public at that location if in fact the phone number or address listed is not a landscape architectural office. Any marketing office or a construction, field or project office must be clearly identified as such.

### **Mangrove trimming and preservation**

Licensed landscape architects may qualify as Professional Mangrove Trimmers under certain circumstances. Such individuals must certify to the department within 3 months prior to renewal that he/she understands the standards required by law.

### **Mandatory Continuing Education**

Florida requires 16 hours of continuing education as a condition of biennial renewal.

- One hour = 50 minutes of course attendance
- No carryover permitted
- CE must be related to and increase the basic knowledge of landscape architecture
- At least two hours must be obtained by attending an advanced or specialized course on the Florida Building Code

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Summary of Licensure Laws: Florida

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- Two hours must be obtained by attending a course on Florida's laws and regulations affecting the practice of landscape architecture. This may be earned by attending a meeting (or four hours of a meeting) of the Board of Landscape Architecture, unless licensee is attending for another purpose; Board members may earn this credit for participation in one or more Board meetings.
- New licensees (12-24 months prior to the end of a biennial period) must complete 8 hours of continuing education as a condition of renewal. A minimum of 2 hours must be obtained by completing a course on Florida's laws and rules affecting the practice of landscape.
- Courses must fall within one or more of the following categories: (1) consultation, investigation, research, planning, general business, design, preparation of drawings, specifications, contract documents and reports, responsible construction supervision, or landscape management in connection with the planning and development of land and incidental water areas where the dominant purpose of the program is the preservation, conservation, enhancement, or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, ground cover and planting, or naturalistic and aesthetic values; (2) the determination of settings, grounds and approaches for building and structures or other improvements; (3) the setting of grades, the shaping and contouring of land and water forms, determination of drainage, and provision for storm drainage and irrigation systems; (4) the design of such tangible objects and features as are necessary to the purpose; (5) professional practice management; and (6) laws and rules related to the practice of landscape architecture.
- A course that constitutes a sales presentation or promotion is not acceptable.
- The following are deemed as approved providers and all courses that meet Florida standards are considered approved and do not need pre-approval: ASLA, Florida ASLA, the FL Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Florida universities, colleges, and community colleges.

Administration: The board approves and evaluates CE providers and courses.

Activities:

- Only courses approved by the board and offered by approved CE providers
- Courses in landscape architecture subjects at an accredited college, including junior and community colleges (refers to general accreditation, not LAAB-accredited landscape architecture programs). Licensees who receive academic credit must submit these courses to the board at least 90 days prior to the November 30 renewal date.
- Instructors, teachers, lecturers, panelists and discussion leaders for CE purposes are granted twice the CE credits for the first presentation, basic credit for the second presentation, and no credit for any further use of the same material
- Licensees who participate in the development of Florida exam questions may be awarded up to 6 hours of CE credits, comprised of 2 hours of laws and rules and 4 hours optional, upon request to the Board.

Recordkeeping: Licensees must submit CE credits from academic institutions within 90 days prior to renewal on November 30 of odd-numbered years (certified transcript).

Exemptions:

- Board is authorized to provide an exemption for one year in hardship or emergency cases
- New licensees (fewer than 12 months) are exempt from CE for the first renewal period

**Last updated February 26, 2015**

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