



Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

ASLA Summary of Provisions

IOWA

Code of Iowa: Chapter 544B, Chapter 272C
Iowa Administrative Code: 193D

Type of Law: Practice/title act.

Landscape Architectural Examining Board

The board consists of five landscape architects and two public members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Professional associations or societies composed of landscape architects may recommend the names of potential board members to the Governor. However, the governor is not bound by the recommendations. A board member may not be required to be a member of any professional association or society composed of professional landscape architects. The board is financed through the general fund.

Powers: Making rules for the examination of applicants for licensure, and conducting examinations.

Definitions

Landscape architect: A person who engages in the practice of landscape architecture.

[Landscape architect, retired: a person who has retired from working as a landscape architect in all states of registration, who has requested "landscape architect, retired" status on the licensure renewal form, and whose request for retired status has been approved by the board. Such individuals may also use the title, "professional landscape architect, retired."]

[PLA: professional landscape architect]

Practice of landscape architecture: Performance of professional services such as consultations, investigations, reconnaissance, research, planning, design, or responsible supervision in connection with projects involving the arranging of land and the elements thereon for public and private use and enjoyment, including the alignment of roadways and the location of buildings, service areas, parking areas, walkways, steps, ramps, pools and other structures, and the grading of the land, surface and subsoil drainage, erosion control, planting, reforestation, and the preservation of the natural landscape and aesthetic values, in accordance with accepted professional standards of public health, welfare, and safety.

This practice shall include the location and arrangement of such tangible objects and features as are incidental and necessary to the purposes outlined in the law but shall not include the design of structures or facilities with separate and self-contained purposes for habitation or industry, or the design of public streets and highways, utilities, storm and sanitary sewers, and sewage treatment facilities, such as are ordinarily included in the practice of engineering or architecture and shall not include the making of land surveys or final land plats for official approval or recording.

Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as authorizing a landscape architect to engage in the practice of architecture, engineering, or land surveying.

[Intern landscape architect: an individual who has a degree in landscape architecture, who is employed under the direct supervision of a professional landscape architect, and who intends to actively pursue licensure by completing the LARE. Such individuals may not use the initials ILA.]

Exemptions

Note: Bracketed [] material is drawn from regulations.



Interprofessional practice: The law does not apply to architects or engineers or prevent them from doing landscape planning and designing nor does it affect or prevent the practice of land surveying by land surveyors.

Exempt persons: Planners, agriculturists, soil conservationists, horticulturists, tree experts, arborists, foresters, nursery or landscape nursery persons, gardeners, landscape gardeners, landscape contractors, garden or lawn caretakers, tiling contractors, graders or cultivators of land, and golf course designers or contractors. Such persons may not hold themselves out as landscape architects

Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure

Passage of [CLARB] written examination and completion of one of the following requirements:

- An accredited four year degree and a minimum of three years of practical experience in landscape architectural work which in the opinion of the board is of satisfactory character, at least one year of which must be under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect.
- A non-accredited four year degree and a minimum of four years of practical experience in landscape architectural work which in the opinion of the board is of satisfactory character, at least one year of which must be under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect.
- A minimum of ten years of practical experience in landscape architectural work which in the opinion of the board is of satisfactory character to properly prepare the applicant for the examination.

A satisfactorily completed year of study in an accredited course of landscape architecture in an accredited school, college or university may be accepted in lieu of one year of practical experience. A master's degree from an accredited school, college, or university may be accepted in lieu of one year of practical experience. Any four-year college or university degree may be accepted in lieu of two years of practical experience.

Fee: [Initial license, \$15 per month until June 30. Biennial renewal, \$350.]

Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure

[CLARB certificate] or licensure in another jurisdiction of the United States, or any foreign country, if the requirements for such license were, at the time it was issued, in the opinion of the board, equal to or higher than the requirements of the state.

Fee: [Initial license, \$300. Biennial renewal, \$350.]

Practice Entities

No provisions.

Seal Requirements

All landscape architectural plans and specifications, prepared by a licensee or under his or her supervision shall be dated and bear the legible seal of the landscape architect. It shall not be construed to permit the seal of a landscape architect to serve as a substitute for the seal of an architect, engineer or land surveyor whenever law requires the seal of an architect, engineer or land surveyor.

Enforcement

Board powers: The board may receive and initiate charges against licensees. Unless it dismisses charges as unfounded or trivial the board may request the Department of Inspections and Appeals to conduct an investigation. The department is required to report its findings to the board and the board must hold a hearing within 60 days of the filing of the charges. [The board may appoint a peer review committee to assist in its decisions by conducting investigations of complaints.] The board may petition the district court for enforcement of its authority and the attorney general provides counsel and assistance to the board.

The board may suspend licenses for a period not exceeding two years; revoke licenses; restore licensees; reprimand licensees; impose probation; require additional professional education or training, or re-examination; impose civil penalties [of not more than \$1,000]; issue citations and warnings; and issue consent

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orders. In addition to any other remedies, and on the petition of the board or any person, any person violating the act may be restrained and permanently enjoined from committing or continuing the violations.

Prohibitions/penalties: Licensees may be disciplined for any of the following; fraud in procuring a license; professional incompetency; knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of the profession or engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public, (proof of actual injury need not be established); habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs; conviction of a felony related to the profession that would affect the licensee's ability to practice professional landscape architecture (a copy of the record of conviction or plea of guilty is conclusive evidence); fraud in representations as to skill or ability; use of untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements; willful or repeated violations of the provisions of the law; and failure to comply with continuing education requirements.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: Engaging in the practice of landscape architecture; using the title "landscape architect," "professional landscape architect," "landscape architecture designer," or use other titles or words, letters, figures, signs, cards, advertisements, symbols, or other devices to represent that the person or a business associated with the person is authorized to practice landscape architecture. Title violations are punishable by a simple misdemeanor.

Mandatory Continuing Education

Iowa requires 24 contact hours of continuing education as a condition of biennial renewal.

- Contact hour is defined as the typical 50-minute classroom instructional session or its equivalent
- No carryover permitted
- All CE must be in health, safety and welfare subjects acquired in structural education activities or individually-planned education
- Examples of health, safety and welfare subjects include design, environmental systems, site design, land use analyses, landscape architecture programming, grading and drainage, storm water management, erosion control, site and soils analyses, accessibility, building codes, 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, construction-phase office procedures, and project management.

Administration: Licensee forms may be selected for review by the board for verification of compliance with these requirements.

Activities:

- 'Structured educational activities' means activities in which the teaching methodology consists primarily of systematic presentation of information by qualified individuals or organizations including monographs, courses of study taught in person or by correspondence, organized lectures, presentations or workshops, and other means through which identifiable technical and professional subjects are presented in a planned manner
- 'Individually planned education' means activities in which the licensee personally addresses subjects that are not systematically presented by others, including reading or writing articles on such subjects; studying or researching landscape architecture, designs or building types; rendering services to the public; advancing the profession's and public's understand of the practice of landscape architecture
- Short courses or seminars dealing with landscape architectural subjects and sponsored by colleges or professional organizations
- Presentations on landscape architectural subjects that are held in conjunction with conventions or at seminars related to materials use and function. Such presentations as those presented by ASLA,

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CLARB, Construction Specification Institute, Construction Products Manufacturers Council or similar organizations devoted to landscape architecture education may qualify.

- Short courses or seminars relating to business practice or new technology and offered by colleges, professional organizations or system suppliers
- Presenting or instructing courses or seminars in landscape architecture (3 preparation hours for each class hour spent teaching landscape architectural courses or seminars). College faculty members may not claim credit for teaching regular curriculum courses.
- Professional service to the public which draws upon the licensee's professional expertise on boards and commissions such as serving on planning commissions, building code advisory boards, urban renewal boards, or code study committees
- Landscape architectural research which is published or is formally presented to the profession or public (credit may be claimed after publication or presentation of research)
- Landscape architectural self-study courses presented in a written format or via the Internet, television, video, or audio, such as those sponsored by ASLA, CLARB, or similar organizations (maximum of 6 hours). These courses must conclude with an examination or other verification of course completion.
- College courses dealing with landscape architectural subjects or business practice
- Educational tours or landscape architecturally significant areas, where the tour is sponsored by college or professional organizations and verification of participation is provided by the tour sponsor (self-guided tours do not qualify)
- Attending in-house educational programs, including dinner, luncheon, and breakfast meetings

Recordkeeping: Licensees must file a signed report on completed CE with the renewal application. Licensee has responsibility for maintaining two-year record, which includes the following for each item: school, firm or organization conducting the course; location; title and description of content; instructor; date; hours claimed. Evidence must include verification of attendance by someone other than the licensee.

Reciprocity: Deems compliance with the provisions if the individual resides in another state having CE requirements and meets those requirements.

Exemptions:

- New licensees (12 or more months) must complete 12 hours of CE
- New licensees (fewer than 12 months) are exempt from CE for the first renewal period
 - Authorizes the board to exempt individuals in cases involving physical disability, illness, hardship, or extenuating circumstances
 - Licensees in active military service
 - Government employees working in the person's licensed specialty and assigned to duty outside the United States
 - Licensees who have been granted inactive status and a waiver from CE requirements

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