



Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

ASLA Summary of Provisions

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Code Annotated: Title 62, Chapter 2
Tennessee Rules: Chapter 0120-1

Type of Law: Practice/title act.

Board of Examiners of Architects and Engineers

The board consists of three architects, three engineers, one landscape architect and one interior designer, all appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by their respective professional societies in the state and one public member. The board is to include where possible, at least one female and at least one black person.

Powers: The board may adopt rules necessary to carry out the act.

Definitions

No definitions of landscape architect or landscape architecture.

Exemptions

Exempt persons:

- Any person engaging in architecture, engineering, or landscape architectural work as an employee of a licensed architect, engineer or landscape architect provided, that such work may not include responsible charge of design or supervision.
- Architects, engineers, or landscape architects who are not residents of and have no established place of business in the state, who are acting as consulting associates of an architect, engineer or landscape architect licensed in the state, provided, that the nonresident is qualified for such professional service in the nonresident's own state or country.
- Architects, engineers or landscape architects who are employed by a person, firm or corporation not engaged in the practice of architecture, engineering, or landscape architecture and who render architectural, engineering or landscape architectural services to their employer only and not to the general public.
- Architects, engineers or landscape architects who are employed by a municipal electric system, electric and community service cooperative or telephone cooperative and who render architectural, engineering or landscape architectural services pertaining to the operations of their employer and who do not offer their services to the general public in exchange for compensation other than that received from their employer.
- Drafters, students, clerks of the work superintendents and other employees of lawfully practicing architects, engineers and landscape architects acting under the instruction, control or supervision of their employers.

None of these exempt persons, including persons employed by the state of Tennessee or its political subdivisions, may use the title landscape architect.

Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure

An applicant must pass the CLARB examination and be a graduate of a school of landscape architecture with a LAAB accredited professional degree and must have completed three years of practical experience in landscape architectural work satisfactory to the board, of which not more than one year of landscape architectural practical training and school may be concurrent. At least two years of the experience must be in an office of a practicing licensed landscape architect. Allows the board to use CLARB standards to determine practical experience.

Note: Bracketed [] material is drawn from regulations.



[Fee: Application, \$30. Initial license and biennial renewal, \$140.]

Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure

Licensure in any state, territory or possession of the United States, or of any country, provided, that the applicant's qualifications meet the requirements of the Tennessee law and rules. Applicants must hold an unexpired CLARB certificate and must present proof of certification upon application to the board

[Fee: Application, \$30. Initial license and biennial renewal, \$140.]

Professional Privilege Tax

In addition to licensing fees, Tennessee levies a professional privilege tax on licensed landscape architects (and various other professions) at a rate of \$400/year.

Practice Entities

A corporation, partnership or firm offering landscape architectural services to the public may engage in the practice of landscape architecture in the state provided, that at least one of the principals or officers of the entity is in responsible charge of the practice and is a licensed landscape architect, or is otherwise authorized to practice by the law. The same exemptions apply to corporations, partnerships and firms as apply to individuals under the law.

Corporations, partnerships or firms offering landscape architectural service to the public must file with the board a listing of names and addresses of all principals and officers, as well as the principals or officers duly licensed to practice landscape architecture in the state who are in responsible charge of such practice in the state. Corporations, partnerships, and firms maintaining any place of business in this state for the purpose of providing or offering to provide landscape architectural design to the public must have, in responsible charge of such service at any and each place of business, a resident licensee.

Seal Requirements

A landscape architect must stamp with the licensee's seal: all original sheets of any bound set of plans; the first sheet of any specifications or reports prepared by the licensee or under his or her responsible charge; and design calculations that are submitted for review. No landscape architect may affix his or her seal or stamp to any document which has not been prepared by the landscape architect or under his or her responsibility. It is unlawful for anyone to stamp or seal any document with a seal of a practitioner whose license has expired or been revoked.

Enforcement

Board powers: Compel the attendance of witnesses; administer oaths; take testimony; refuse to issue or renew, and revoke or suspend a license. The board may seek action to restrain or enjoin any unauthorized practice or other violation of the law.

Prohibitions/penalties: The board may take disciplinary action [refuse to issue or renew, revoke or suspend a license, require passage of a laws & rules exam, require completion of additional continuing education hours, assign a probationary period] against a licensee who is found guilty of: fraud or deceit in obtaining a license; gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of landscape architecture; failure to obtain, keep and utilize the licensee's seal as required by the law; by a court of competent jurisdiction of breach of contract for professional services; violation of the rules of the board; or having the person's right to practice

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landscape architecture suspended or revoked by another state or national registration board. A licensee may be found guilty of misconduct from failure to pay the professional privilege tax. A violation of any of these provisions is a Class B misdemeanor. The board may levy civil penalties against licensees of up to \$1,000.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: It is unlawful for any unlicensed person to practice or offer to practice landscape architecture. A person is construed to practice or offer to practice landscape architecture who, by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other way, represents such person to be a landscape architect, with or without qualifying adjective, or through the use of some other title implies that the person is a landscape architect. No person may present or attempt to file as such person's own the license of another; give forged or willfully false evidence of any kind to the board for the purpose of obtaining a certificate; falsely impersonate any other practitioner; or use or attempt to use an expired or revoked license. A violation of any of these provisions is a Class B misdemeanor. Each day of the violation is a separate offense.

[Board policy states that a landscape architect who is actively licensed in another jurisdiction (including foreign country) may use the title 'landscape architect' in Tennessee. In such cases, the landscape architect must also include the jurisdiction(s) in which they are licensed is written/printed after the title.]

Mandatory Continuing Education

Tennessee requires landscape architects to complete 24 professional development hours (PDH) for each biennial renewal period.

- PDH = contact/clock hour consisting of at least 50 minutes of instruction
- 12 PDH may be carried over to subsequent year
- A majority of PDHs (13+) should address health, safety and welfare issues and technical competency, and all PDH must be relevant to the practice of landscape architecture (may include technical, ethical or managerial content). There are [detailed guidelines regarding HSW](#) on the board's website within the following categories: legal and administrative issues; inventory; analysis; design issues; construction methods and processes; documentation and administration; and details.

Administration: Authorizes the board to review and approve sponsors and programs. Directs the board to adopt a format for reporting and guidelines for auditing CE credits claimed.

Activities:

- Activities must have a clear purpose and objective that will maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure or to develop new and relevant skills and knowledge. The content must be well organized and presented in a sequential manner, there must be evidence of preplanning, and the presenters must be well qualified by education or experience.
- The board has indicated on its website that it generally accepts courses provided by local, state, and national professional and technical societies, national regulatory councils, government agencies, and colleges and universities. It also generally accepts courses approved by LA CES-approved providers, AIA, NCEES, CLARB, and NCDIQ.
- Completion (full credit) /monitoring (1/3 credit) of college-sponsored courses (semester hour = 15 PDH; quarter hour = 10 PDH)
- Completion of courses that award CEUs (1 CEU = 10 PDH)
- Attendance at structured seminars, tutorials, short courses, correspondence courses, televised courses, Internet courses, or videotaped courses
- Attendance at in-house programs sponsored by corporations or other organizations
- Teaching any of the above courses (twice the credit of a student, to be claimed only once)
- Authoring published papers, articles, or books (preparation time not to exceed 25 PDH/ publication)
- Making presentations at technical meetings

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- Attendance at program presentations at related technical or professional meetings where program content is comprised of at least 1 PDH
- Attendance at licensing board meetings and professional society legislative events, and active participation in a technical/professional society or organization, or a technical or professional public board, as an officer or committee member (maximum: 8 PDH)
- Active participation in educational outreach activities involving K-12 or higher education students (maximum: 4 PDH)

Recordkeeping: Licensees must submit satisfactory evidence of compliance with renewal application. Licensees are responsible for maintaining a four-year CE record, including log showing type of activities claimed, sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructor/speaker name, description of activity and PDH credits earned. Records must also include transcript or completion certificate, or at least two of the following: attendance verification records in the form of signed attendance receipts, paid receipts, a copy of a listing of participants signed by a person in responsible charge or other documents supporting evidence of attendance.

Reciprocity: If a licensee resides in or has his or her principal place of business in a jurisdiction that has established mandatory continuing education requirements for landscape architects, and that licensee has met those requirements and is in good standing in that jurisdiction, then that licensee is deemed to have met the CE requirements in Tennessee. An exemption in the home state does not carry over to Tennessee unless the individual qualifies for a Tennessee exemption.

Exemptions:

- New licensees upon initial licensure, but they must complete the required CE for their first renewal period
- Licensees serving on temporary active duty (non-career military personnel) in the U.S. armed forces for more than 120 consecutive days in a year
- Licensees employed as a landscape architect and assigned to duty outside the U.S. for more than 120 consecutive days in a year
- Retired or inactive licensees

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