



Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

ASLA Summary of Provisions

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Statutes: Chapter 443
Wisconsin Administrative Code: A-E

Type of Law: Practice/title.

Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors.

Board consists of three architects, three landscape architects, three engineers, three designers, three land surveyors and ten public members.

Powers: Adopt regulations necessary to carry out the act.

Definitions

Landscape architect: A person who practices landscape architecture.

Landscape architecture: Performance of a professional service involving conceptual land planning and conceptual design for integrated land development based on the analysis of environmental characteristics, operational requirements, land use or commensurate land values. Landscape architecture includes the investigation, selection or allocation of land or water resources for appropriate uses; the formulation of graphic or written criteria for a land planning or land construction program; the preparation, review or analysis of a master plan for land use or development; the production of a graphic land area, grading, drainage, planting or land construction plan; and the planning of a road, bridge or other structure with respect to the aesthetic requirements of the area on which it will be constructed.

Exemptions

Interprofessional practice: Landscape architecture does not include services performed by a licensed architect, professional engineer, land surveyor.

Exempt persons:

- Officers and employees of the federal government while engaged within the state in the practice of landscape architecture for the federal government. A separate provision also states that it does not apply to a person employed by the federal government who is engaged in the practice of landscape architecture for the federal government.
- Any person employed by a county or the state who is engaged in the planning, design, installation, or regulation of land and water conservation activities.
- The practice of planning as is customarily done by a regional, park, or urban planner, or a person participating on a planning board or commission.
- The practice of a natural resource professional, including a biologist, professional geologist, or a professional soil scientist. Another provision exempts any person who performs services related to natural resources management, including the management of state lands, control of invasive species, cultivation or harvesting of raw forest products, management of county forests, the practice of forestry (including sustainable forestry), any services provided in connection with an order, or the preparation of an application for an order, under subch. I or VI of ch. 77, and any forestry operation..
- The actions of a person who is under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect or an employee of a licensed landscape architect, unless the person assumes responsible charge, design, or supervision.
- Work performed on property by an individual who owns or has control over the property, or work performed by a person hired by an individual who owns or has control of the property.
- Making plans or drawings for the selection, placement, or use of plants or site features.

Note: Bracketed [] material is drawn from regulations.



Exempt buildings

Nothing prevents any person from advertising and performing services, including consultation, investigation, evaluation, in connection with and making plans and specifications for, or supervising the erection, enlargement or alterations of any of the following buildings:

- Dwellings for single families, and outbuildings in connection with single-family dwellings, including, but not limited to, barns and private garages.
- Apartment buildings used exclusively as the residence of not more than 2 families.
- Buildings used exclusively for agricultural purposes.
- Temporary buildings or sheds used exclusively for construction purposes, not exceeding 2 stories in height, and not used for living quarters.

Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure

Applicants must pass a written or a written and an oral examination. To be eligible for examination, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, or a master's degree in landscape architecture, from a curriculum approved by the examining board and have at least two years of practical experience in landscape architecture of a character satisfactory to the examining board. In lieu of these requirements, an applicant may submit a specific record of at least seven years of training and experience in the practice of landscape architecture including at least two years of courses in landscape architecture approved by the examining board, and four years of practical experience in landscape architecture of a character satisfactory to the examining board. [Applicants must pass a written exam on barrier-free design.]

Fee: Initial license, \$53. Biennial renewal, \$82.

Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure

CLARB certificate or licensure in another state, territory or possession of the United States or in any country in which the requirements for licensure are of a standard not lower than those specified in the law. The board may also grant a license to a person who is not a resident of and has no established place of business in the state, or who has recently become a resident of the state, if the person holds an unexpired license issued to the person by the proper authority in any state territory or possession of the United States or in any country in which the requirements for licensure are of a standard not lower than those specified in the law. [Applicants must pass a written exam on barrier-free design.]

Fee: Initial license, \$53. Biennial renewal, \$82.

Practice Entities

The law specifies requirements for practice entities involving architects, engineers and designers, but is silent as to the formation of such entities by landscape architects except for the following reference: No firm, partnership or corporation may be relieved of responsibility for the conduct or acts of its agents, employees or officers by reason of its compliance with this chapter, nor may any individual practicing landscape architecture be relieved of responsibility for landscape architectural services performed by reason of his or her employment or relationship with the firm, partnership or corporation. All final drawings, specifications, plans, reports or other architectural, engineering or designing papers or documents involving the practice of architecture, professional engineering or designing, or landscape architectural papers or documents prepared by a landscape architect licensed under this chapter, prepared for the use of a firm, partnership or corporation, for delivery by it to any person or for public record within the state shall be dated and bear the signature and seal of the architect, landscape architect, professional engineer or designer who was in responsible charge of their preparation. [Every firm that maintains more than one place of business must have a resident landscape architect in each location that offers landscape architectural services.]

Seal Requirements

[Each sheet of plans, drawings, documents, specifications and reports for landscape architectural practice must be signed, sealed and dated by the licensee who prepared, or directed and controlled preparation of the written material.]

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Enforcement

Board powers: The board may reprimand a licensee and suspend or revoke a license. The board, the attorney general or the district attorney may investigate potential violations and may, in addition to any other remedies, bring action to enjoin unlicensed persons from using the title landscape architect.

Prohibitions/penalties: The board may reprimand a licensee and suspend or revoke a license when a person is convicted of a felony or found guilty of: fraud or deceit in obtaining a license; signing or impressing his or her seal or stamp upon documents not prepared by him or her or under his or her control or knowingly permitting his or her seal or stamp to be used by any other person; any gross negligence, incompetency or misconduct in the practice of landscape architecture; any violation of the rules of professional conduct adopted and promulgated by the examining board.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: An unlicensed person is prohibited from: practicing landscape architecture; offering to practice landscape architecture; using or advertising any title or description that conveys the impression that he or she is a landscape architect; advertising to furnish landscape architectural services; using the title landscape architect; presenting or attempting to use the license of another; giving any false or forged evidence of any kind to the examining board in obtaining a license; falsely impersonating any other licensee of like or different name; attempting to use an expired or revoked license; or violating any of the provisions of law. [A licensee must assist in enforcing laws that prohibit unlicensed practice of landscape architecture by reporting violations to the board. A licensee may not delegate professional responsibility to unlicensed persons or otherwise aid or abet the unlicensed practice of landscape architecture.] Violations are punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 3 months, or both.

Mandatory Continuing Education

Wisconsin requires landscape architects to complete 24 Continuing Education Hours (CEH) for each biennial renewal period.

- CEH = Continuing Education Hour (at least 50 minutes of instruction/hour)
- At least 16 CEH must relate to public health, safety, and welfare issues related to landscape architecture. Defines HSW as any topics or subjects related to the practice of landscape architecture that are deemed appropriate to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare, including the proper planning, design and construction of buildings, structures, infrastructures, and the spaces within and surrounding buildings and structures that meet the following criteria: (a) Minimize the risk of injury to persons or property and comply with applicable building and safety codes; (b) Are durable, environmentally friendly, cost effective, and conserve resources; (c) Are aesthetically appealing; (d) Function properly in all relevant respects; (e) Enhance the public's sense of well-being, harmony and integration with the surrounding environment.
- At least 2 CEH must be in professional conduct and ethics subjects
- Does not allow credits to carry over to the next renewal period.

Administration: Authorizes the board to conduct a random audit.

Activities:

- CE is defined as planned, professional development activities designed to contribute to the advancement, extension and enhancement of the professional skills and scientific knowledge of the registrant in the practice of landscape architecture for the benefit of the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- Continuing education shall be in the topics or subject areas of landscape architecture, building design, landscape design, environmental or land use analysis, life safety, landscape architectural programming, site planning, site and soils analyses, plant material, accessibility, lateral forces,

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- selection of building systems and structural systems, construction methods, contract documentation and construction administration, or the Wisconsin statutes and rules regulating landscape architects.
- Activities must meet the following criteria: (1) the activity constitutes an organized method of instruction that contributes directly to the professional competency of the licensee and pertains to subject matters which integrally relate to the practice of landscape architecture; (2) the activity is conducted by individuals who have specialized education, training or experience and are considered qualified concerning the subject matter of the program; and (3) the activity provides proof of attendance or completion by the registrant and fulfills pre-established goals and objectives.
 - Approved providers may include: ASLA, CLARB, ULI, ANLA, APA, NSPE, NRPA, AIA, CSI, state or federal training programs, and educational institutions.
 - Online, correspondence, televised, videotaped, or other short courses and tutorials
 - Presentations at related professional or technical presentations meetings at which at least one hour is spent discussing landscape architecture or attending a lecture on related topics, or both
 - Landscape architecture programs, seminars, tutorials, workshops, short courses or in-house courses conducted by an instructor where the student and instructor interact simultaneously in real-time, including traditional classroom or live events. (participation: 1 CEH; teaching: 3 CEH (max 6 CEH)).
 - College course in landscape architecture or related sciences (semester hour-16 CEH; quarter hour-12 CEH)
 - Teaching is available for the first time course is given. Credit not available to full-time faculty in the performance of their regularly assigned duties.
 - Authoring landscape architecture related papers or articles that appear in circulated journals or trade magazines. (actual preparation time, maximum of 6 CEH)
 - Serving as a jury panel member on a professional landscape architect work or design competition.
 - Providing professional service to the public by serving as an officer or committee member of a technical or professional society, board, commission or other organization related to landscape architecture. (2 CEH for one full year of service; max 2 CEH)
 - Educational tours of landscape architecturally significant projects which are sponsored by a college, professional organization or system supplier (max 8 CEH)

Recordkeeping: Licensee has responsibility for maintaining four-year record, which must include all of the following: (1) The name and address of the sponsor or provider; (2) A brief statement of the subject matter; (3) Printed schedules, registration receipts, certificates of attendance, or other proof of participation; and (4) The number of hours attended in each activity and the date and place of the activity.

Reciprocity: An applicant for licensure from another state who applies for licensure to practice landscape architecture may receive credit for completion of CE obtained in another jurisdiction within the 2 years prior to application if the landscape architect section determines that the CE is substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter.

Exemptions:

- New licensees by examination or reciprocity until after first renewal period
- Licensees may receive a waiver due to "extreme hardship," defined as one of the following:
 - Full-time service in the U.S. armed forces for a period of one year during the biennium.
 - An incapacitating illness documented by a statement from a licensed health care provider resulting in an inability to participate in a CE activity.
 - Retirement whereby the renewal applicant no longer receives remuneration from providing landscape architecture services.
 - Any other extenuating circumstances.

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