Earn either your first-professional degree (MLA) or a post-professional degree (MSLA)

Learn from highly qualified educators and experienced specialists in the field

Enjoy state-of-the-art studios, computer labs, and exhibition spaces

Opportunities to gain experience through internships, study abroad, and community service projects

why you belong here
Are you interested in environmental issues, the fine arts, and the challenges facing urban landscapes? Is your background in environmental sciences, arts and humanities, design, or social sciences? Chatham University offers two graduate degrees in Landscape Architecture related to your background and career goals. These degrees include the accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) and the post-professional research based Master of Science in Landscape Architecture (MSLA).

what you can expect
At Chatham, we view landscape architecture as a holistic and interdisciplinary profession that encompasses multiple areas of knowledge, including human behavior, social and cultural influences, aesthetics, and environmental sustainability. Our highly qualified faculty, who are specialized experts, will challenge and motivate you, while our individualized academic advising will help ensure your success in achieving your educational goals.

The MLA is an accredited, first-professional degree for students without an undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture. It provides you with basic skills and knowledge required for professional competency. In addition, you must specialize in an area of the profession by completing either a thesis or capstone project in your final year of study.

The MSLA is a research degree for students who already have a professional design degree and wish to gain research experience and focused knowledge in Landscape Architecture. This is a post-professional two-year program that is tailored to your scholarly interests and is supervised by your advisor and thesis committee.

These programs have rolling admission throughout the year to accommodate a range of start dates.
what you will learn

The courses offered within the Landscape Architecture program focus on specific areas of learning that include design and planning, construction and implementation, environmental sciences and ecology, history and theory, graphic communications and visualization, and research methods and techniques.

Sustainability and the environment are woven into every nuance of Chatham’s MLA program, regardless of which degree best suits your professional and academic goals. As a Landscape Architecture graduate student, you will have access to state-of-the-art facilities, including studios, computer labs, a resource room, and an exhibition hall. Chatham offers many diversified learning opportunities, including professional internships, study abroad, and community service projects.

where it will take you

As a graduate of the Landscape Architecture program, you will have opportunities to work in both the public and private sectors. Within the private sector of the green industry, there are many landscape architecture consulting firms and practices located throughout the country.

Within the public sector, you may work for government agencies at the federal level, such as the National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, or the USDA. Similarly, you could work for state-level agencies and local municipalities. There are also many non-governmental organizations that are actively involved in environmental programs, such as the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and the Environmental Defense Fund.

learn more

Read admission requirements, explore student opportunities, and watch slideshows of student design presentations at chatham.edu/mla.

‘Chatham’s landscape architecture program is unique in this country because of our strong collaborative relationship with the interior architecture faculty and student body. This collaborative relationship is consistent with our interdisciplinary philosophy and holistic approach towards design.’

— Kyle Beidler, Ph.D., ASLA, assistant professor in landscape architecture

take note

• The majority of landscape Architecture courses are held at Chatham Eastside, which features a state-of-the-art computer lab, exhibition space, and three landscape architecture-designated studios. This LEED-Silver renovation project uses sustainable design practices, recycled materials, and energy-efficient lighting to create academic and social space within a green, urban environment.

• Located in Pittsburgh, the landscape architecture program is able to capitalize on the metropolitan area as a laboratory for teaching, research, and outreach projects. In addition, we continue to build relationships with the community of local designers that comprise a vibrant network of professionals.