why you belong here
Do you have a degree in horticulture, landscape design, environmental studies, or architecture, but dream of expanding your horizons? Do you have a degree in an unrelated field but have been working in the green industry and want to take your career to the next level? If so, then the Master of Landscape Design and Development (MLD) program at Chatham is where you belong.

Ours is the only program in the region that serves the green industry and related landscape specializations such as landscape contracting, landscape management and design/build. We strive to bridge the gap between designers and professional industry members while helping you understand aesthetic issues, business management, and sustainable development challenges, particularly in Western Pennsylvania.

what you can expect
As a MLD student, you will develop a strong foundation in landscape and planting design while taking coursework that emphasizes business management and entrepreneurial strategies. Our highly qualified faculty and motivated student body will challenge and inspire you, while individualized academic advising and flexible scheduling will help ensure your success in balancing life with your educational goals. Full and part-time schedules are available with rolling admission and program entry available throughout the year.

As an MLD student, you will make use of our state-of-the-art facilities, including studios, computer labs, smart lecture halls, a resource room, and an exhibition hall. You can also take advantage of the diversified learning opportunities available at Chatham, including professional internships, study abroad, and fieldwork or community service projects. We also offer tuition waivers for students who work in the Chatham arboretum and graduate assistantships, as they are available.
what you will learn

With sustainability and the environment being central to the University's mission, this theme is woven into every nuance of Chatham’s MLD program. As a student here, you will explore the issues of designing, planning, and managing the natural environment, as well as how to achieve sustainable development in your design.

Your curriculum will include a range of courses from plant identification to landscape operations and management. However, what makes Chatham’s MLD program unique is its emphasis on business management. A significant portion of your coursework will be offered through the Business Department and include courses such as, marketing, leadership and management. With a foundation in both landscape design and business management, our program will ensure that you build a solid understanding of construction administration, contracting practices, construction specifications, and scheduling.

The capstone of your MLD experience is a Landscape Development Collaboration Studio, in which you will be asked to synthesize all the knowledge and skills you have gained in the program. The studio reflects the critical path of tasks involved in the landscape development process and is taught jointly by a team of professionals who represent a range of specialties with the green industry.

where it will take you

As a graduate of our MLD program, you can join one of several industries in a variety of roles. You may choose to work for landscape maintenance firms, nurseries, botanical gardens, arboretums, turf and seed operations, or timber growers. On the other hand, you could work with landscape contractors and design/build professionals who specialize in the installation and maintenance of landscape projects which range from the residential scale to large corporate accounts.

learn more

Read faculty bios, view admission requirements, and apply online at chatham.edu/mld.

‘Many landscape contracting programs are offered within colleges of horticulture. Chatham’s MLD program is unique because it emphasizes our collaborative relationship with the Business Department. This allows our students to specialize in business management skills that will prepare them for the challenges facing the growth of the green industry in the years to come.’

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

take note

• Our diverse body of fulltime and adjunct faculty teach from their experiences of having achieved leadership positions in government, academia, and private practice.

• Classes for the MLD program are held at Chatham Eastside, which features state-of-the-art classroom and studio spaces. 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.

• Opportunities abound in the green design industry and Chatham landscape students are well prepared to compete in this viable market. Green and sustainable design is inherent in the teaching and learning experience and is infused in the coursework and curriculum.

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