



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture

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For Immediate Release

CAPLA Master of Landscape Architecture Receives STEM Designation

STEM designation for the Master of Landscape Architecture acknowledges the innovative, technical nature of the graduate program while enabling eligible international students to extend their post-degree stay in the U.S.

The [College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture](#) at the University of Arizona is pleased to announce that, effective immediately, the [Master of Landscape Architecture](#) (MLA) is now a STEM-designated degree.

CAPLA's MLA is an accredited, three-year first professional degree program that prepares students for practice and licensure as professional landscape architects. The new STEM designation (and associated new CIP Code 30.3301) better reflects the dynamic technical nature of the professional training CAPLA MLA students receive.

Our program incorporates the latest innovations in landscape design history, theory and criticism; design processes and methods; professional communication including written, verbal, multimedia and hand graphics; advanced technologies and tools; landscape ecology and landscape performance methods; sociocultural design factors; site engineering, construction and design implementation; and professional practice policies, procedures and ethics.

Graduates are equipped with the tools they need to enter the workforce as tech-savvy, groundbreaking designers. For example, state-of-the-art computer labs and expert faculty provide students with strong backgrounds in geospatial analysis and methods, plant and ecosystem science and digital methods for creating models, simulations and visualizations. Our Environmental Monitoring Maker Space allows students in the program to gain technical environmental monitoring and modeling skills while deepening their understanding of landscape performance metrics. These skills provide a strong foundation for developing creative design solutions for the built environment.

STEM OPT Extension

As we look toward the future of an increasingly global profession, we recognize our international students as essential members of our student and alumni communities. Eligible international students who attend the University of Arizona on F-1 visas and complete the STEM-designated MLA degree may now extend their stay in the United States by up to 24 additional months

beyond the standard 12 months associated with the Optional Practical Training (OPT)—enhancing their overall educational experience and helping to bridge their experience between academia and practice.

Additional Information on the MLA

To learn more about the MLA, visit capla.arizona.edu/mla or contact Emilio Romero, graduate student services coordinator, at 520-621-9819 or eromero@arizona.edu.

About CAPLA

The [College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture](https://capla.arizona.edu) (CAPLA) at the University of Arizona is a leading college of design, planning and sustainability of the built environment in the American Southwest. We are innovators of transformational strategies, championing a future-oriented perspective where hands-on design and planning stimulate sustainable innovation and solve the grand challenges of the built environment. CAPLA, which has 500 undergraduate and 150 graduate students, is comprised of the [School of Architecture](https://capla.arizona.edu/school-of-architecture) and [School of Landscape Architecture and Planning](https://capla.arizona.edu/school-of-landscape-architecture-and-planning). We offer three undergraduate degrees—the NAAB-accredited [Bachelor of Architecture](https://capla.arizona.edu/bachelor-of-architecture), ranked #24 in the country by *DesignIntelligence*, new [Bachelor of Landscape Architecture](https://capla.arizona.edu/bachelor-of-landscape-architecture) and [BS in Sustainable Built Environments](https://capla.arizona.edu/bs-in-sustainable-built-environments) (available on-ground, online and at the UArizona microcampus at UPC-Lima, Peru)—plus five graduate degrees: the NAAB-accredited [Master of Architecture](https://capla.arizona.edu/master-of-architecture), [MS in Architecture](https://capla.arizona.edu/ms-in-architecture), LAAB-accredited [Master of Landscape Architecture](https://capla.arizona.edu/master-of-landscape-architecture), [Master of Real Estate Development](https://capla.arizona.edu/master-of-real-estate-development) (available on-ground and online) and PAB-accredited [MS in Urban Planning](https://capla.arizona.edu/ms-in-urban-planning), ranked the #8 small program in the country by *Planetizen*. We also offer [graduate certificates](https://capla.arizona.edu/graduate-certificates) in Heritage Conservation, Energy Efficient Building Design and Real Estate Development. At CAPLA, we are building a changing world.

<https://capla.arizona.edu>

CAPLA Communications Contact

For additional information on CAPLA or our communications, please contact Simmons Buntin, marketing and communications manager, at 520-241-7390 or sbuntin@arizona.edu.

View this press release online at <https://capla.arizona.edu/studio/capla-master-landscape-architecture-receives-stem-designation>.