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## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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### OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

The [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) \(2012\)](#) explains that “landscape architects plan and design land areas for parks, recreational facilities, highways, airports, and other properties. Projects include subdivisions and commercial, industrial, and residential sites.” Furthermore, BLS highlights that recently “landscape architects are working in environmental remediation, such as preserving and restoring wetlands or managing storm-water runoff in new developments. They are also increasingly playing a role in preserving and restoring historic landscapes.

### EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

BLS explains that to gain entry into the field of landscape architecture, one must receive either a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree from an accredited school of architecture, gain experience through an internship with a registered landscape architect, and pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. Consult [O\\*Net](#) for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are needed for a career in architecture.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

The University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning (SAAP) offers a Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA). Further information can be found on the [SAAP website](#).

### INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

#### Commercial

Architecture firms, universities/colleges, corporations, self-employment, design firms, manufacturers

#### Public Practice

Local, state and federal government such as: local and national parks, planning and growth management agencies, transportation authorities

#### Residential

Architecture firms, real estate, construction, self-employment, consulting

#### Education

University or college teaching, research

### SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

- Gain experience in a landscape architect’s office, obtain an internship while in school, develop communication skills, study various landscape architecture styles, gain experience and knowledge of computer programs related to architecture such model building, computer-aided design (CAD), geographic information systems (GISs), and video simulation.
- Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the [Student Activities Center website](#).
- Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities, check out The School of Architecture and Planning’s Alumni Chapter <http://saap.unm.edu/alumni-friends/index.html>.
- Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.
- Obtain experience and licensure in field of landscape architecture, develop strong communication skills including writing skills, create a professional portfolio

**STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:**

Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Location	2012				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$38,500	\$48,800	\$64,200	\$83,400	\$101,900
New Mexico	\$38,800	\$45,300	\$55,500	\$71,100	\$89,500

**OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**

American Society of Landscape Architects  
Association of Professional Landscape Designers  
Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards

<http://www.asla.org/>

<http://apld.com/>

<http://www.clarb.org/>



<http://onetonline.org>



[http:// www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)

**REFERENCES**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, (2012, August 31). *Occupational Outlook Handbook, Landscape Architects*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/ooH/architecture-and-engineering/landscape-architects.htm>

State of Minnesota, U. S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (2013). *CareerOneStop, Occupation Profile, Landscape Architects*. Retrieved from [www.careerinfonet.org](http://www.careerinfonet.org)

University of New Mexico, School of Architecture and Planning (2013). *Degrees*. Retrieved from <http://saap.unm.edu/academic-programs/landscape-architecture/degrees.html>