

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

Since August 2014, the Department of Design and Architecture of Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Gurabo Campus, offers the professional degree: Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture. Currently, it's the only BSLA in Puerto Rico accredited by Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB).

### **A. Mission**

The program's mission is to prepare students to be knowledgeable in the landscape architecture discipline through a creative multidisciplinary approach that emphasizes science and technology studies. Current local and global topics related to the discipline are explored through design, research and community outreach activities enabling students to think critically and innovatively in the making of the landscape environment while empowering their practice.

Revision has been implemented in February 2018 for the current LAAB accreditation candidacy application.

### **B. Program academic goals**

The academic goals relate to the program mission by developing student's skills gradually through the bachelor's sequence and by focusing core curriculum courses on current local and global industry topics and technologies such as climate change, sustainability, land conservation, urban and landscape infrastructures, economy trends, environmentally sensible outcomes, faster social communication dynamics, and expansive digital data driven technologies.

- To stimulate excellence in landscape architectural design by providing the knowledge and experiences to develop fundamental competencies in the profession.
- To innovate in the science and technology fields by fostering collaboration between disciplines.
- To promote the discipline of landscape architecture as a critical role in the development of the natural and built environment.
- To foster critical analysis and research that encourages awareness of resources and sustainability practices in both local and global contexts.
- To instill ethical and social responsibility through practical community outreach projects.

## C. Educational Objectives

The educational objective of the program is to integrate social, cultural, and technological dimensions in solving design problems concerning the improvement of regional, rural, urban natural and cultural landscapes. These objectives relate to the program educational and mission goals by focusing on developing students with current professional skillsets to conduct research, analysis, and design of landscapes with a focus on current global industry concepts such as climate change, sustainability, land conservation, urban and landscape infrastructures, economy trends, environmentally sensible outcomes, faster social communication dynamics, and expansive digital data driven technologies.

Curriculum specific educational objectives are:

- Demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to explore ideas and synthesize information, both independently and in collaboration with interdisciplinary team members.
- Demonstrate competence, creativity, and critical judgment in applying the intellectual and technical skills necessary to the professional practice of landscape architecture; particularly skills of problem-solving surrounding spatial, three-dimensional design of outdoor spaces, including in particular: site inventory and analysis; community participation; programming; synthesis; communication; implementation; evaluation and management.
- Apply and evaluate the components of a professional curriculum as defined by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board, the accrediting organization for landscape architecture programs.
- Understand, apply, and evaluate the principles, theories, and recent research findings in the field of landscape architecture.
- Understand and apply materials and methods, site design, site engineering, environmental and ecological system dynamics to design projects.
- Understand and apply landscape planning, management, and conservation issues across scales.
- Demonstrate advanced communication skills, including graphic, verbal, and written presentation skills.
- Be able to perform ethically and competitively as an entry-level landscape architect in a public or private office or governmental agency setting.

## **FACILITIES & STUDENT SERVICES AT THE DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Design and Architecture has laboratories and workshops available to all students, from different disciplines. These spaces promote interdisciplinarity and collaboration of academic programs.

- Computer labs
- Digital Fabrication Lab: FAB LAB Puerto Rico
  - 3D Printer Room
  - Ceramic workshop
- Fashion design lab
- Photo Studio
- Access to virtual library