

1. PROGRAM MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 The Landscape Architecture Program has stated as its mission the following:

Mission Statement

The mission of the landscape architecture program at Purdue is to prepare students for successful careers in landscape architecture, to discover new knowledge regarding the creative enhancement and preservation of natural and built environments, to contribute to the advancement of the profession of landscape architecture, and to enhance quality of life for the people it serves.

This mission will be accomplished by the following educational objectives:

Unique education

- Providing the students with an education that is unique to Indiana, Purdue and the School of Agriculture while instilling in them the desire to experience and appreciate diversity of cultures, pursue international understanding, and recognize the design challenges for people of all abilities, social status and economic class.

Site dynamics

- Exploring the dynamics governing all sites that we engage as landscape architects, ranging in scale from gardens to cities and regions.

Natural processes

- Providing experiences that inform students of natural processes on the local, regional and global scales, and to help them understand the alternative futures created by their decisions, designs and recommendations.

Professional practice

- Teaching time-tested principles of professional practice and searching for new methods through service learning experiences, emphasizing communication, and practical office internships.

History and theory

- Examining the linkages between theory and practice, culture and nature, art/design and science, history and design today, the pragmatic and the imaginative in order to teach the history, theory and philosophy of landscape architecture not as a record of a static past but as a guide to dynamic futures.

New connections

- Instructing students in ways to make new professional connections, seek to represent landscape architecture in finding new ways to solve complex professional problems and provide leadership that represents the unique perspective of landscape architects in multi-disciplinary teams.

The above statement addresses the primary mission of the landscape architecture program - providing our students with an education that assists them in finding a meaningful career in landscape architecture. There are other goals, objectives and tasks that must be carried out to support the main purpose of our program. They include recruitment of quality students, maintaining mutually beneficial relations with our alumni, providing academic (and sometimes personal) advice to our students, and pursuing new knowledge through research.

1.2 The Landscape Architecture Program draws strength and lends its expertise to the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, the School of Agriculture and Purdue University. Therefore, the Program endeavors to align with and support the mission and objectives of the related entities throughout the University.

The mission of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture is to prepare students, citizens, and industry for the future by discovering new knowledge and providing innovative educational programs relating to horticulture and landscape architecture.

Specifically, Purdue Horticulture and Landscape Architecture is:

- A center of higher education and training, awarding baccalaureate degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture, and advanced degrees in horticulture, plant biology and genetics.
- A research enterprise that continually expands the knowledge upon which educational programs and continued economic, environmental, and social vitality is based.
- A provider of outreach educational programs that empower citizens to solve problems by integrating and applying knowledge.
- A source of expertise for horticulture, plant biotechnology, and landscape architecture, with benefits in both domestic and international settings.

Vision Statement:

Our vision is to be the leading Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture in the Nation, by providing excellent educational and outreach programs and research-based information in the local, national, and international arenas. The Purdue Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture will be the top program because of its emphasis on creativity, science, and technology, while maintaining a keen focus on relevancy to horticulture, landscape architecture, agriculture, and stewardship of natural resources.

The mission of the School of Agriculture is included in its strategic plan and reads as follows:

“Purdue Agriculture serves the food, agriculture, and natural resource systems by providing exceptional education, by discovering new knowledge, and by helping citizens improve their lives and livelihoods.”

The complete text of the School of Agriculture Strategic Plan is included in Appendix A.

The mission of Purdue University is to serve the citizens of Indiana, the United States, and the world through **discovery** that expands the realm of knowledge, **learning** through dissemination and reservation of knowledge, and **engagement** through exchange of knowledge.

Discovery: Grounded in the most advanced theoretical, empirical, and applied methods, the University’s programs of research, scholarship, and creative endeavor expand the realm of knowledge across a wide range of academic disciplines.

Learning through dissemination and preservation: The University promotes and champions learning by providing a variety of instructional settings where students and faculty can share and create new knowledge. It distributes knowledge to an audience of peers and citizens through a great diversity of academic literature and professional activities. In its libraries and other archives, the University serves as the repository and facilitator of access to a rich accumulation of human information, knowledge, and wisdom.

Engagement through exchange: Through its programs of knowledge exchange and application, the University helps put knowledge to work to create new opportunities that advance our society and solve a variety of technical and social problems.

In all these activities, the University seeks to:

- Prepare its graduates to succeed as leaders, professionals, informed consumers, responsible citizens, and lifelong learners;
- Admit to its programs an academically proficient population of students pursuing post-secondary education;
- Reach out to an expanded audience of learners through residential and distance education utilizing a variety of learning media and technologies;
- Play a leadership role in the Indiana's economic and social development;
- Promote human and intellectual diversity by providing equal access and opportunity to representatives of a rich variety of populations and cultures; and
- Contribute to the welfare and advancement of human societies throughout the world.

The full text of the Purdue University mission and strategic plan is included in Appendix B.

The Landscape Architecture Program strives to continually align its curriculum and programs with the missions and objectives of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, the School of Agriculture and Purdue University.

1.3 Long-range Plans

The long-range plan for the Landscape Architecture Program (Appendix C) is not current. In part, the landscape architecture strategic plan was dependent on the completion of both the University's and the School of Agriculture's Strategic Plans. It is now incumbent upon the landscape architecture faculty to embark on developing a new strategic plan starting, perhaps with a review of our mission and objectives. Goals and objectives need to be rewritten to reflect desired educational outcomes. The faculty must also thoroughly review the curriculum and course offerings relative to program objectives and intended outcomes.

1.4 Program literature is distributed to prospective students to assist them in making choices about their academic pursuit. The booklet in its entirety can be found in Appendix 1-1. The same information is also available on the departmental website.