

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

Landscape Contracting involves constructing, establishing, and maintaining landscapes from small residential projects to large commercial and industrial projects, as well as producing plans for small-scale residential and commercial sites. Students develop skills in construction, site design, plant material usage, plant establishment, and landscape maintenance. Students are also educated in areas such as graphics, surveying, soils, turfgrass management, weed and pest management, and in business operations.

Students are encouraged to obtain on-the-job experience in landscape contracting by working with a landscape maintenance or construction firm, or other related business. Credits for this experience are available for those who choose to enroll in an internship.

A wide variety of opportunities exist for landscape contracting graduates. They may be employed by design/build firms, landscape management firms, nurseries, or garden centers. Others may choose to work for municipalities, golf courses, parks, or botanical gardens.

Design/Build Option

This option focuses on the development of skills in the planning and implementation of landscape projects. Employment opportunities exist with landscape contracting companies, irrigation companies, and retail centers.

Management Option

This option provides professional education in the management of landscapes. Employment opportunities include positions with landscape management companies and golf courses.

What is Landscape Contracting?

Landscape contracting is a highly specialized profession that involves the design, construction, and management of outdoor environments. The industry is dependent upon educated and well-trained individuals who are capable of creating sustainable design solutions that meet or exceed client expectations. Penn State is at the forefront of preparing students to be leaders in this exciting industry.

You Might Like this Program If...

- You are interested in owning your own company or working for small to large landscape firms as a project manager or account manager on residential and commercial projects
- You enjoy learning in both classroom and outdoor settings
- You are interested in a program that offers design studios and computer classrooms with up-to-date software applications for creating 2-D and 3-D landscape plans
- You like to be outside and want to work with your hands

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING (<https://agsci.psu.edu/academics/undergraduate/majors/landscape-contracting>)

Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have at least third-semester classification (<https://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm>).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/>)

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Contracting, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	3-16
Requirements for the Major	80-96

21-24 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3-6 credits of GA courses; 9 credits of GN courses; 3 credits of GQ courses; 3 credits of GS courses; 3 credits of GWS courses.

Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
ACCTG 211	Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making	4
HORT 410W	Issues in Landscape Contracting	3
LARCH 60	Cultural History of Designed Places	3
PLANT 217	Landscape Soil and Water Management	3
SOILS 101	Introductory Soil Science	3
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ENGL 202D	Effective Writing: Business Writing	3
HORT 101	Horticultural Science	3
HORT 120	Computer Applications for Landscape Contracting	2
HORT 131	Herbaceous Perennial and Annual Identification	3
HORT 137	Ornamental Plant Materials	3
HORT 138	Ornamental Plant Materials	3
HORT 408	Landscape Plant Establishment and Maintenance	4
HORT 468	Landscape Estimating and Bidding	2
Additional Courses		
BIOL 110 or BIOL 127	Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity Introduction to Plant Biology	3-4

CHEM 101 or CHEM 130	Introductory Chemistry Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry	2-3
MKTG 220 or BA 303	Introduction to Selling Techniques Marketing	3
TURF 100 or TURF 235	Introduction to Turfgrass Management The Turfgrass	3
Select one of the following:		3
AGBM 101	Economic Principles of Agribusiness Decision Making	
ECON 14	Principles of Economics	
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	
Select one of the following:		3
BA 250	Small Business Management	
BA 304	Management and Organization	
HORT 455	Retail Horticulture Business Management	
Select one of the following:		3-4
BA 241 & BA 242	Legal Environment of Business and Social and Ethical Environment of Business	
BA 243	Social, Legal, and Ethical Environment of Business	
BLAW 243	Legal Environment of Business	
Select one of the following:		4
SPAN 1	Elementary Spanish I	
SPAN 2	Elementary Spanish II	
SPAN 105	Elementary Spanish I for Students in the Agricultural Sciences	
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select one of the following:		3-4
MATH 26	Plane Trigonometry and Applications of Trigonometry	
MATH 41	Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry	
MATH 140	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	
Requirements for the Option		
Select an option		14-26

Requirements for the Option Design/Build Option (25-26 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
ART 20	Introduction to Drawing	3
HORT 270	Basic and Advanced Hand and Digital Graphics for Landscape Contracting	1
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HORT 220	CAD Applications in Landscape Contracting	3
HORT 269	Residential Landscape Planning	3
HORT 368	Landscape Planting Design	4
HORT 464	Landscape Construction I	4
HORT 466	Landscape Construction II	5
Additional Courses		
Select 2-3 credits from the following:		2-3
ENT 313	Introduction to Entomology	
ENT 314	Management of Insect Pests of Ornamentals	
HORT 238	Turf and Ornamental Weed Control	

PPEM 300	Horticultural Crop Diseases	
PPEM 318	Diseases of Forest and Shade Trees	

Management Option (14-15 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
ENT 313	Introduction to Entomology	2
ENT 314	Management of Insect Pests of Ornamentals	1
SOILS 401	Soil Composition and Physical Properties	3
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HORT 238	Turf and Ornamental Weed Control	3
HORT 250	Landscape Contracting Design/Build Principles	3
Additional Courses		
PPEM 300 or PPEM 318	Horticultural Crop Diseases Diseases of Forest and Shade Trees	2-3

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3

credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Program Learning Objectives

- **Create Site Solutions:** Students will use quantitative, artistic, and environmental knowledge to create workable site solutions. Students will work individually, collaboratively, and cooperatively.
- **Concept Communications:** Students will communicate complex design concepts to clients and industry professionals using 2-D and 3-D computer generated documents.
- **Landscape Management Plans:** Students will develop landscape management plans that reflect their knowledge of plants and their cultural requirements, biology, and the surrounding environment.
- **Business Management Skills:** Students will employ business management skills to analyze landscape project inputs and to develop comprehensive pricing proposals.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

University Park

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2025-26 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

Design/Build Option: Landscape Contracting, B.S. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 101 ^{*††}	3 AGBM 101, ECON 14, ECON 102, or ECON 104 [†]	3
ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 ^{††}	3 MATH 26 ^{††}	3
PLANT 150S	2 LARCH 60 [†]	3
General Education Course	3 CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C ^{††}	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course (GQ) ^{††}	3	
	17	15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 127 or 110 [†]	3-4 SOILS 101 [†]	3
SPAN 1, 2, or 105	4 ACCTG 211	4
BA 250, 304, or HORT 455	3 HORT 220 [*]	3
HORT 137	3 ART 20 [†]	3
HORT 120 [*]	2 General Education Courses (GHW)	1.5
	15-16	14.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CHEM 101 or 130	2-3 HORT 464 [*]	4
HORT 138 [*]	3 HORT 408 [*]	4
HORT 269 [*]	3 PLANT 217	3
HORT 270	1 ENT 313, 314, HORT 238, PPEM 300, or PPEM 318	2-3
TURF 100 or 235	3 ENGL 202D ^{††}	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5	
13.5-14.5		16-17

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 466 [*]	5 HORT 368 [*]	4
HORT 131 [*]	3 HORT 468 [*]	2
HORT 410W	3 MKTG 220 or BA 303	3
BLAW 243	3 Elective	3-6
	General Education Course	3
14		15-18

Total Credits 120-126

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Advising Note:

Please consult with your academic adviser regarding the selection of elective courses.

Management Option: Landscape Contracting, B.S. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 101 ^{*††}	3 AGBM 101, ECON 14, ECON 102, or ECON 104 [†]	3
ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 ^{††}	3 MATH 26 ^{††}	3
PLANT 150S	2 LARCH 60 [†]	3
General Education Course	3 CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C ^{††}	3
General Education Course (GQ) ^{††}	3 General Education Course	3
	14	15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 127 or 110 [†]	3-4 SPAN 1, 2, or 105	4
HORT 137 [*]	3 ENT 313	2
HORT 120	2 ENT 314	1
SOILS 101 [†]	3 BLAW 243	3
BA 250, 304, or HORT 455	3 PPEM 318 or 300	2
	MKTG 220 or BA 303	3
	General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
	14-15	16.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 138 [*]	3 ACCTG 211	4
CHEM 101 or 130	2-3 ENGL 202D ^{††}	3
HORT 238 [*]	3 HORT 408 [*]	4
HORT 250 [*]	3 PLANT 217	3
TURF 100 or 235	3 General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
	14-15	15.5

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 131 [*]	3 SOILS 402 or 404	3
HORT 410W	3 HORT 468 [*]	2
General Education Course	3 Elective	3
General Education Course	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 General Education Course	3
	Elective	2-3
	15	16-17

Total Credits 120-123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

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All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Advising Note:

Please consult with your academic adviser regarding the selection of elective courses.

Design/Build Option: Landscape Contracting, B.S. at Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 ^{††}	3 MATH 26 ^{††}	3
AGBM 101, ECON 14, ECON 102, or ECON 102 [†]	3 CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C ^{††}	3
General Education Course	3 ART 20 [†]	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 General Education Course	3
General Education Course (GQ) ^{††}	3 General Education Course	3
First Year Seminar	1-3	
14.5-16.5		15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 127 or 110 [†]	3-4 CHEM 101 or 130	2-3
ACCTG 211	4 SPAN 1, 2, or 105	4
BLAW 243	3 ENGL 202D ^{††}	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Courses (GHW)	1.5
Elective	3 Elective	3
16-17		13.5-14.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 137 [*]	3 HORT 464 [*]	4
HORT 269 [*]	3 HORT 408 [*]	4
HORT 101 (Elective) ^{††}	3 PLANT 217	3
HORT 120 [*]	2 HORT 220 [*]	3
HORT 270	1 LARCH 60	3
SOILS 101	3	
ENT 313, 314, HORT 238, PPEM 300, or PPEM 318	2-3	
17-18		17

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 131	3 HORT 368 [*]	4
HORT 138	3 HORT 468 [*]	2
HORT 410W	3 MKTG 220 or BA 303	3
HORT 466	5 BA 250, 304, or HORT 455	3
TURF 100 or 235	3 General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
17		13.5

Total Credits 123.5-128.5

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

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General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Advising Note:

Please consult with your academic adviser regarding the selection of elective courses.

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Management Option: Landscape Contracting, B.S. at Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 127 or 110 [†]	3-4 CHEM 101 or 130	2-3
ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 ^{††}	3 MATH 26 ^{††}	3
General Education Course (GQ) ^{††}	3 CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C ^{††}	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
First Year Seminar	1-3	
14.5-17.5		14-15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
AGBM 101, ECON 14, ECON 102, or ECON 104 [†]	3 ENGL 202D ^{††}	3
BLAW 243	3 ACCTG 211	4
SPAN 1, 2, or 105	4 General Education Course	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 General Education Course	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
14.5		16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 137 [*]	3 SOILS 402 or 404	3
HORT 120 [*]	2 MKTG 220 or BA 303	3
HORT 238 [*]	3 HORT 408 [*]	4
HORT 101 ^{*††}	3 PLANT 217	3
HORT 250 [*]	3 LARCH 60 [†]	3
SOILS 101 [†]	3	
17		16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HORT 138 [*]	3 ENT 313	2
HORT 131 [*]	3 ENT 314	1
HORT 410W	3 HORT 468	2
TURF 100 or 235	3 PPEM 318 or 300	2-3
BA 250, 304, or HORT 455	3 Elective	3
	Elective	3
	Elective	2-3
15		15-17

Total Credits 122-128

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

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Advising Note:

Please consult with your academic adviser regarding the selection of elective courses.

Career Paths

Career opportunities exist with landscape management firms, design/build firms, nurseries, public gardens, park systems, municipalities, golf courses, and garden centers. Graduates may find opportunities in marketing and sales, business management, estimating and bidding, and landscape design and management.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING PROGRAM (<https://agsci.psu.edu/academics/undergraduate/majors/landscape-contracting>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Students may pursue graduate studies in horticulture, landscape architecture, turfgrass science, ecosystems management, and other related fields.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://plantscience.psu.edu/graduate>)

Professional Resources

- National Association of Landscape Professionals (<https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org>)
- Association of Professional Landscape Designers (<https://www.apld.org>)

Contact

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