



Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

ASLA Summary of Provisions

CONNECTICUT

General Statutes of Connecticut: Title 20, Chapter 396
Connecticut Regulations: Section 20

Type of Law: Practice/title act. Sunset date: 7/1/2015. (Title 2c, Chapter 28)

Board of Landscape Architects

Consists of four licensed landscape architects and three public members appointed by the Governor. Funded through the state's General Fund.

Powers: The Commissioner of Consumer Protection adopts regulations concerning eligibility for landscape architectural licensing examinations, reciprocal licensing and other matters. [The review of all applications for licensure, granting of licenses through examination or without examination; establishment and enforcement of ethical and professional standards; establishment and enforcement of continuing education requirements; and the conduct of any other such business or review whose object is the securing of the safety, health and welfare of the general public through the practice of landscape architecture.]

Definitions

Landscape architect: A person who holds a license to practice landscape architecture.

Practice of landscape architecture: Rendering or offering to render the service of site planning, which may involve and encompass the design or management of land, the arrangement of natural and artificial elements, including, but not limited to, grading and incidental drainage, soil and erosion control, and planting plans, and the determination and consideration of inherent problems of the land relating to natural and artificial forces with concern for resource conservation in accordance with accepted professional standards of public health, safety and welfare, such service to be rendered to clients by consultation, investigation, reconnaissance, research, planning, specification, design or periodic observation; but does not include the physical implementation of such service, including, but not limited to, the actual on-site performance of grading, drainage, soil and erosion controls and planting work normally performed by builders, general contractors and subcontractors.

[Design or management of land and the arrangement of natural and artificial elements includes: investigation, selection, and allocation of land and water resources for appropriate uses; feasibility studies; formulation of graphic and written criteria to govern the planning and design of land construction programs; preparation, review and analysis of master plans for land use and development; production of overall site plans, grading and incidental drainage plans, irrigation plans, planting plans, sediment and erosion control plans, and related construction details and specifications; cost estimates and reports for land development; collaboration in the design of public roads, bridges, and structures with respect to the functional and aesthetic requirements of the areas on which they are to be placed; negotiation and arrangement for execution of land area projects; field observation and inspection of land area construction, restoration and maintenance.]

Exemptions

Interprofessional practice: Architects and engineers exempt from the law.

Exempt persons (may not use the title 'landscape architect'):

- Any person making plans, drawings or specifications for any property owned by him or her.

Note: Bracketed [] material is drawn from regulations.



- Vendors of goods, services or materials, including nurserymen, landscape nurserymen, gardeners, landscape gardeners, and general or landscape contractors, providing drawings or graphic diagrams necessary for the proper layout of their goods or materials.
- A landscape designer engaging in, for a fee, the design of spaces utilizing plant materials and incidental paving and building materials or arranging for installation of the same.

Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure

Requirements: Applicants must successfully pass the CLARB written examination and such technical and professional subjects as may be prescribed by the board. Eligibility for examination is based on graduation from an [LAAB-accredited] landscape architecture program plus a minimum of two years of practical experience under the direct supervision of a landscape architect. In lieu of the education and experience requirement, an applicant may be admitted to the examination by demonstrating a minimum of eight years of actual, practical experience in satisfactory landscape architectural work of a grade and character acceptable to the board. [CLARB certificate is required, unless good cause is shown to submit the information in similar form.]

Fee: Application, \$80. Initial license, \$280. Biennial renewal, \$160.

Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure

Requirements: [CLARB certificate] or licensure in another state provided that state has licensure standards that are substantially similar to, or higher than, those of Connecticut and the practitioner has no disciplinary proceedings or unresolved complaint pending. [CLARB certificate is required, unless good cause is shown to submit the information in similar form.]

Fee: Initial license, \$280. Biennial renewal, \$160.

Practice Entities

Authorizes a corporation to be formed for joint practice between landscape architects, architects, engineers and/or land surveyors. At least one or more persons licensed as architects, landscape architects, engineers or land surveyors must own not less than two-thirds of the voting stock of the corporation or not less than two-thirds of the voting interests of the limited liability company, and the members of each profession forming the corporation or limited liability company together own at least 20% of the voting stock (corporation) or voting interests (LLC). Licensees must be the persons in responsible charge of the practice of the professions. Such entities must have a joint certificate of registration issued by the Department of Consumer Protection at the direction of the State Board of Landscape Architects (and the other professional boards, as appropriate). The entity must provide the licensing board with information concerning its officers, directors, members, beneficial owners and all other aspects of its business organization.

Requires business entities (corporations and limited liability companies) practicing or offering to practice landscape architecture to receive a certificate of registration. Personnel who act on the entity's behalf as landscape architects must be licensed or exempt from licensure. Entities must designate an individual(s) licensed to engage in the practice of landscape architecture in Connecticut who shall be in charge of landscape architecture by the entity.

Seal Requirements

Working drawings or reports prepared for plans or projects which are required to be done by a landscape architect must be stamped with the seal of the landscape architect. No person shall designate or imply that he or she is the author of such working drawings or reports unless such person was in responsible charge of their preparation, whether made by him or her personally, or under his or her immediate supervision.

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Enforcement

Board powers: All complaints received by the board are forwarded to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection for investigation. The board may suspend or revoke licenses or registrations, issue a letter of reprimand, place licensee or registrant on probationary status with certain conditions, issue a civil penalty not greater than \$1,000, or any combination of these.

Prohibitions/penalties: The board may discipline licensees for: obtaining a license through fraud or misrepresentation; fraud or deceit in professional practice; gross negligence or gross incompetency; or other violations of statute or regulation. Knowingly, willfully or intentionally violating any of these provisions is punishable by a fine of up to \$250, imprisonment of not more than three months, or both.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed practice: Practicing landscape architecture or using the title landscape architect or displaying or using any words, letters, figures, title, signs, seal, advertisement or other device to indicate that an unlicensed person practices or offers to practice landscape architecture is prohibited. Knowingly, willfully or intentionally violating any of these provisions is punishable by a fine of up to \$250, imprisonment of not more than three months, or both.

Mandatory Continuing Education

Connecticut licensees are required to complete 24 contact hours during the biennial renewal period.

- Contact hour = 50 minutes of instruction
- At least 6 CH must be earned by attendance of a live presentation
- No carryover permitted

Activities:

- Continuing education obtained by a landscape architect shall maintain, improve, or expand the knowledge and skills obtained prior to initial licensure, and shall develop additional knowledge and skills relevant to the practice of landscape architecture in the promotion of the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.
- College courses (semester credit = 45 CH)
- Activities conducted by professional programs or organizations which award CE credits
- Portions of technical meetings or seminars related to the technical element of the practice of landscape architecture
- Preparation and/or presentation of technical research papers at technical meetings
- Participation in the study and examination in technical subjects sponsored by CLARB
- Participation in LARE preparation sponsored by CLARB.
- Self-directed study or research may be acceptable with the prior approval of the Board.

Recordkeeping: Licensee has responsibility for maintaining five-year record, as specified. Licensee may use CLARB record for CE, or submit form provided by the board.

Reciprocity: Credits obtained for the CE requirements of other states shall be accepted if the credits meet the Connecticut standards.

Exemptions:

- New licensees are not required to meet the provisions for the first biennium in which the licensee is licensed.

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- A landscape architect who is unable to comply with the requirements of this section due to extenuating circumstances may apply for a waiver or an extension of time to fulfill such requirements.

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