

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A PROGRAM NAME CHANGE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY:  
MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE II PROGRAM TO MASTER OF SCIENCE  
PROGRAM IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to change the name of the Master of Landscape Architecture II Program to the Master of Science in Landscape Architecture.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed name will help to increase interdisciplinary study and double majors and co-majors in the College of Design. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. The proposed program addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan to “provide educational excellence and impact.”

**Background:**

- ◇ **Description of existing program.** The current Master of Landscape Architecture II Program is an unaccredited research degree which focuses on research skills rather than practice skills and is primarily targeted toward students who already have a professional design degree and wish to gain additional credentials, research experience, and focused knowledge in landscape architecture.
- ◇ **Proposed name.** The proposed name change will clarify the differences between the accredited professional degree needed for practice and licensure and the research degree for prospective students and future accreditation teams. It will also assist in marketing the degree to students interested in non-professional-practice careers in agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other entities.
- ◇ **Duplication.** There are no other institutions of higher education in Iowa that offer a Master of Science Program in Landscape Architecture.
- ◇ **Comparable name at other institutions.** The proposed name has been adopted by graduate programs at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and the University of Wisconsin - Madison.
- ◇ **Projected enrollment.** The existing program has averaged about 10 students a year. The projected enrollment is expected to increase or at least remain steady during the next seven-year period.
- ◇ **Resources.** The University anticipates that no new resources will be needed because existing resources will provide staff, facilities, and equipment for the proposed re-named program.
- ◇ **Distance education.** There are possibilities for course offerings through distance education because the program is not studio-based. Depending on students’ interests, it might be possible to complete a degree with limited residence requirements.

- ◇ Curriculum changes. The curriculum resulting from the proposed name change will remain similar to the existing program, requiring 36 credits of coursework and completion of a thesis or creative component. It is expected that students will concentrate their study in areas such as history-theory, design-art, ecology, hydrology, community design, or other areas that support their thesis or creative component. Existing graduate courses in other departments in the College of Design and other colleges will be used.