

# PROPOSED UNIFORM STANDARD LEGISLATION

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

OCTOBER 29, 2024

Hosted by:



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF  
**LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS**

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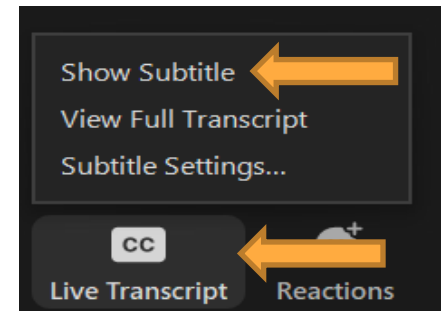
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# Presenters



LEA ANN MACKNALLY  
ABELA Board Member /  
CLARB Past President



ZACH DRUGA  
CLARB Government Affairs &  
Advocacy Manager



BRADLEY RAWLS  
ASLA Government Affairs



CHRISTINA ARGO  
ASLA Alabama Chapter  
President

# Agenda

- Welcome
- About ABELA
- Uniform Standard Background
- ABELA Uniform Standard Discussion & Proposed Legislation
- Uniform Standard - ASLA Perspective
- Questions
- Next Steps



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF  
**LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS**

The Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects was created to regulate the practice of landscape architecture for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public.

- KEITH WARREN, Executive Director
- LEAH COCHRANE, Administrator
- CHAD WATKINS, Chair
- JULIE STEPHENS, Secretary
- LEA ANN MACKNALLY, Member

Alabama Code 1975 § 34-17-1

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT. A person who is engaged or offers to engage in the practice of landscape architecture, as hereinafter defined in this state.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE. The performance of professional services such as consultation, investigation, research, planning, design, preparation of drawings and specifications and responsible supervision in connection with the development of land areas where, and to the extent that the dominant purpose of such services is the preservation, enhancement, or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, planting, naturalistic and aesthetic values, the settings and approaches to structures or other improvements, the setting of grades and determining drainage and providing for standard drainage structures, and the consideration and determination of environmental problems of land including erosion, blight, and other hazards.

[www.abela.alabama.gov](http://www.abela.alabama.gov)



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF  
**LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS**

- LICENSURE DEFENSE
- CONTINUING EDUCATION
- PUBLIC PROTECTION / COMPLAINTS

[www.abela.alabama.gov](http://www.abela.alabama.gov)

***ABELA is a member of Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). [www.clarb.org](http://www.clarb.org)***



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF  
**LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS**

Ala.Code 1975 § 34-17-3 § 34-17-3. Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects -- Powers and duties generally.

(c) The board may make, adopt, and amend such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.



**CLARB**  
**ASLA**

Making  
Proactive  
Change:  
Implementing  
the Uniform  
Standard



# Why a Uniform Standard?

01

Achieve consistent  
licensure  
requirements  
across jurisdictions

02

Improve the  
landscape  
architecture  
mobility model

03

Provide for  
increased equity to  
promote diversity

04

Increase  
defensibility of  
licensure  
requirements



# Elements of a Defensible Uniform Standard

Inclusive Education Pathways

Justifiable Experience Requirements

Accessible Licensure Examination



# Data and Information Inputs

Recommendations  
from ASLA on  
alternative educational  
paths / Inputs from  
CELA

Requirements for  
related design  
disciplines  
(architecture and  
engineering)

Correlations related to  
current member  
requirements

Correlations related to  
years of experience  
(and education type)  
and demonstration of  
competency

Input from the  
profession on when  
they felt competent to  
practice independently



# Pathways in Uniform Standard

Education	Experience	Exam
LAAB/LAAC Accredited Degree in Landscape Architecture	2 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
4-year Non-Accredited Degree in Landscape Architecture	4 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
2-year Certificate in Landscape Architecture	6 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
Accredited Architecture or Engineering Degree	6 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
Any Bachelor's Degree	6 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
No post-secondary education	8 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.

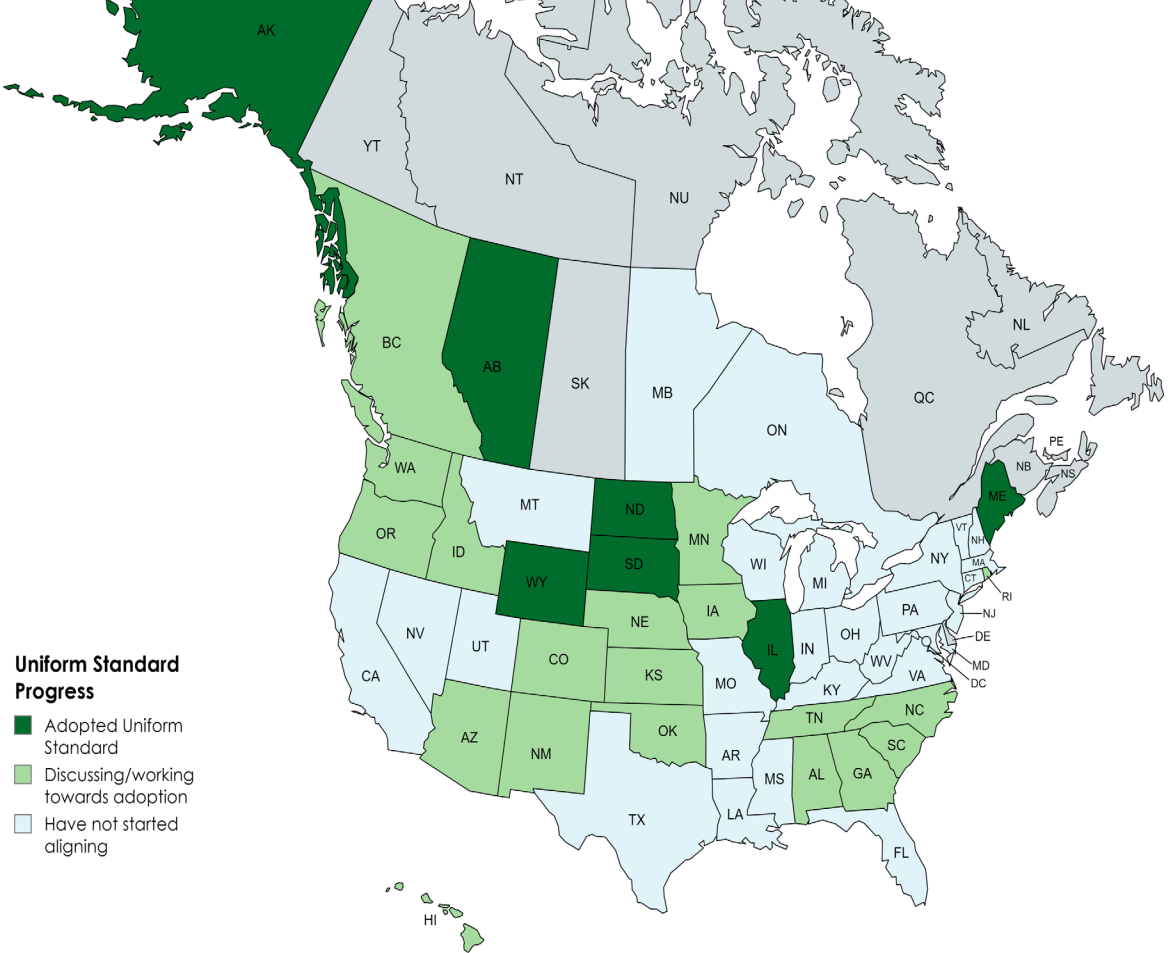


# Alabama Requirements vs Uniform Standard

Alabama	Years of Experience	Uniform Standard	Years of Experience
Accredited bachelor's LA degree	2	Accredited LA degree (or international equivalent)	2
Accredited master's or doctoral LA degree	1	Non-accredited LA degree	4
<b>Phased out experience only</b>	<b>8 (Phased out)</b>	Any other bachelor's	6
		Experience only	8



# Uniform Standard Progress



**Uniform Standard Progress**

- Adopted Uniform Standard
- Discussing/working towards adoption
- Have not started aligning

# ASLA Public Policies

## Natural Resources

- [Air Quality](#)
- [Coastal Zones](#)
- [Non-Native Invasive Species](#)
- [National Parks](#)
- [Open Space](#)
- [Preservation of Historic Sites, Districts, and Landscapes](#)
- [Public Lands](#)
- [Rural Landscapes](#)
- [State, Regional, and Local Parks](#)
- [Transgenic Plants and the Environment](#)
- [Vegetation and the Built Environment](#)
- [Visual Resources](#)
- [Water Quality and Conservation](#)
- [Waterways](#)
- [Wetlands](#)
- [Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat](#)

## Public Affairs

- [Agriculture](#)
- [Billboards and Signage](#)
- [Environmental Education](#)
- [Environmental Justice](#)
- [Environmental Sustainability](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Human Health and Well-Being](#)
- [Livable Communities](#)
- [Memorials](#)
- [Outdoor Lighting](#)
- [Public Participation](#)
- [Security Design](#)
- [Transportation Corridors and Facilities](#)
- [Universal Design](#)
- [Urban and Local Agriculture](#)
- [Urban Growth and Development](#)

## Professional Affairs

- [Education](#)
  - [Accreditation](#)
  - [Professional Development](#)
  - [Research](#)
- [Professional Licensure](#)
  - [Definition of Landscape Architectural Practice](#)
  - [Prerequisites for Licensure](#)
  - [Reciprocity](#)
  - [Enforcement](#)
  - [Universal Designation](#)





## PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE: RECIPROCITY (2002, R2018, R2023)

### **Policy Statement**

The American Society of Landscape Architects believes requirements for reciprocal licensure should easily and efficiently facilitate the interstate practice of professional landscape architecture and protect public health, safety, and welfare. ASLA supports the use of uniform criteria for licensure to help facilitate reciprocity, while recognizing states may have additional requirements based upon unique environmental conditions related to public health and safety. ASLA recognizes CLARB's Council Record or Certificate can increase licensing board efficiency, however ASLA supports multiple means for an individual to obtain a reciprocal license without the requirement of a CLARB Council Record or CLARB Certificate.





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PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

91                   "§34-17-21

92                   For licensing as a landscape architect, the ~~following~~  
93 ~~evidence shall be submitted that the~~ applicant must comply  
94 with one of the following:

95                   (1) ~~Is at least 19 years of age~~ Hold a degree in  
96 landscape architecture from a school or college approved by  
97 the board or meet the alternative education requirements  
98 approved by the board and satisfy the examination and  
99 experience requirements.



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF  
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## CURRENT RULES – Section 500-x-2-.03

### 500-X-2-.03 Qualifications For Licensure.

(1) An applicant must submit evidence that the applicant has completed the course of study in and graduated from a college or school of landscape architecture approved by the Board. The applicant also must submit evidence of actual practical experience in landscape architectural work of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board. A total six years of combined education and experience must be completed before an applicant may apply for examination. Each year of study in an approved college or school of landscape architecture will be accepted as one year of such combined education and experience for a maximum of five years. A master's or doctoral degree in landscape architecture shall fulfill the requirements for five years combined education and practical experience.

(2) In lieu of graduation from an accredited college or school of landscape architecture, and the practical experience in addition thereto, an applicant may apply for examination upon presenting evidence of at least eight years of actual practical experience in landscape architectural work of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board. In order to be considered for licensure via practical experience, an applicant must have begun earning acceptable practical experience prior to August 1, 2012.

(3) Each applicant may be required to submit for licensure, authentic proof of the statements made therein by attaching such documentary evidence, affidavits, registrar's statements, diplomas, published data, photographs, photostats, or any other sworn proven evidence as in the discretion of the Board, may be sufficient to show the Board that the applicant is clearly eligible for licensure as a landscape architect.

### Landscape Architects

### Chapter 500-X-2

(a) The Board may require a portfolio of plans which have been implemented specifically indicating the applicant's ability to execute contours, drainage, planting plans and perspective drawings whenever the applicant does not hold a college degree from an accredited university program in landscape architecture.

(b) The Board reserves the right to retain as a permanent part of the application, any or all documents submitted. Original documents may be replaced by photostatic copies of such documents at the request and expense of the applicant.

(4) All applicants shall be considered individually by the Board based upon evidence submitted and passed or rejected on a role call vote. The action taken by the Board on each application shall be recorded in the minutes and an outline of the action taken by the Board shall be placed with the application.

(a) A personal appearance before the Board may be required of applicants in the discretion of the Board. Personal appearances before the Board, if required, shall be at the time and place designated by the Board.

(b) Failure to supply additional evidence or information within 30 calendar days from the date of a written request from the Board or to appear before the Board when such an appearance is deemed necessary by the Board, may be considered just and sufficient cause for disapproval of the application.

**Author:** William R. Sorensen

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-17-1, et seq.

**History:** Filed October 1, 1981. **Amended:** Filed

February 24, 1994; effective March 31, 1994. **Amended:** Filed

November 18, 2013; effective December 23, 2013.

# Questions



# Thank you!

- UPDATED ABELA WEBSITE!  
[www.abela.alabama.gov](http://www.abela.alabama.gov)

QUESTIONS?

Contact the board: [landscapeboard@alstateboard.com](mailto:landscapeboard@alstateboard.com)