Horticulture - Landscape Design programs teach individuals how to design gardens and whole landscapes, both indoors and outdoors, which will enhance the beauty and practicality of a building or a natural or developed area. You will learn about land use and management, ecological systems, including plants and animals, and about garden and landscape art and design. You will study procedures and regulations which are applicable to the profession.

Students in this major usually begin by learning drawing and computer graphics skills. They may also study geology and hydrology, soils, groundcovers and horticultural elements, project and site planning, landscape and environmental design. They study the land itself: drawing, mapping, and analyzing it; and imagining how it will appear in the future. Later in their studies, they design small gardens or a land management plan and learn how to develop the sketches and specifications which will implement their designs. Studio courses help them to take a project to completion, working through all the related design, construction, legal, and social issues.

Programs at Montana State University will prepare students to solve aesthetic and functional landscape problems. Technical and creative studies lead to problem-solving skills which are used to create beautiful, functional, and efficient landscape design solutions. Emphasis is placed on the use of plant materials to solve site problems. Graduates are employed by landscape nurseries, landscape contractors, and planning agencies; others become self-employed as landscape designers and contractors.

Characteristics associated with success in this major include an interest in beauty in the environment, land management issues, ecology and working with plants.

You should:

- be interested in horticulture
- be creative
- have good verbal and written communication skills
- be imaginative and pay attention to detail
- have good analytical skills
- have good computer skills
- be good at solving complex problems
- be able to work with people

Occupations in this field require ability to: be able to express yourself visually through drawing and sketching; work in the outdoors, in adverse conditions; be knowledgeable of computer applications of all kinds, including drafting and design software such as CAD.

Related occupations include:

- Botanist
- Horticulturist
- Landscape Architect
- Plant Scientist
- Nursery/Greenhouse Manager
- Soil Conservationist
- Commercial Designer
- Architect
- Industrial Designer
- Groundskeeper, Industrial-Commercial
- Agronomist
- Horticulturist
- Soil Scientist
- Civil Engineer
MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following selected fields:

Designer – Country Flower; Land Design, Inc.
Finish Carpenter – Kaufmann Overhead Door
Head Grower – Klupenger Nursery
Installer – Bridger Kitchens
Landscape Designer – Oakleaf Landscape Design and Consulting; Billings Nursery; Forde Nursery & Landscaping; Morrison Design and Landscaping Inc.; Silver Wind Landscaping; Independent Landscaping;
Sylvan Nursery; Blanchford Landscape Contractors, Inc.; Alpine Reflections Inc.; Becca & Landscaping; Lone Park
Outdoors Sales Person – Glacier Nursery
Owner – Utopia Landscaping; Blooming Landscape & Design
Painter – Kalan Murano Painting
Perennial Department Head – Sylvan Nursery
Plant Specialist – Sweet Pea Landscaping
President – M & M Landscape Design Inc.
Project Manager – Web Landscape
Ranch Manager and Caretaker – Personal Ranch
Real Estate Agent – Keller Williams Realty
Waitress – Gallatin River Lodge

Salary averages of survey respondents: (# of respondents in parentheses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MT</th>
<th>Out of State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>MT: $40,000 (2)</td>
<td>Insufficient Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>MT: Insufficient Data</td>
<td>Insufficient Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>MT: $26,919 (5)</td>
<td>Insufficient Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>MT: $34,000 (1)</td>
<td>Out of State: $20,800 (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the field for “Landscape Architect” the lowest 10% of salaries for 2012 (comparable to new college graduate starting salaries) was $38,500 annually. The median wages in the nation in 2012 was estimated at $64,200 annually. In 2012 there were 20,100 positions nationally with an expected growth forecast of +14% through 2022. In 2012 there was not enough data to report salaries for the State of Montana. In 2012 there were 50 positions in Montana with an expected growth forecast of +4% through 2022. Job openings in Montana and nationally are due to both growth and net replacement. Please remember when reviewing the salary information that it is the “median”, meaning 50% of reported wages fell below and 50% above the reported wage.

Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions:

University of Colorado
University of Washington
North Carolina State University
Kansas State University
Montana State University - School of Architecture

Other Sources of Information:

Association of Professional Landscape Designers: www.apld.com
American Society of Landscape Architects: www.asla.org
American Nursery & Landscape Association: www.anla.org
Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards: www.clarb.org
Department of Plant Science & Plant Pathology – Montana State University: http://plantsciences.montana.edu

Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2012: 8/2; 2011: 1/0; 2010: 8/5; 2009: 12/8