

What Can I Do With a Major In...

Horticulture-Landscape Design Option?

Horticulture - Landscape Design programs¹ 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 University² 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 success¹ in this major include an interest in beauty in the environment, land management issues, ecology and working with plants.

You should¹:

- 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 analytical
- be good at solving complex problems
- be able to work with people

Occupations in this field require ability to¹: 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 include¹:

- Botanist
- Horticulturist
- Landscape Architect
- Plant Scientist
- Nursery/Greenhouse Manager
- Soil Conservationist
- Commercial Designer
- Architect
- Industrial Designer
- Groundskeeper, Industrial-Commercial
- Agronomist
- Horticulturist
- Soil Scientist
- Architect
- Civil Engineer

What Can I Do With a Major In...

Horticulture-Landscape Design Option?

MSU graduates (Bachelor's degree) were hired in the following selected fields³:

Designer– Country Flower; Land Design, Inc.
Finished 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)³

2007: MT: \$ 40,288 (5)	Out of State: Insufficient Data
2006: MT: \$ 36,400 (4)	Out of State: Insufficient Data
2005: MT: \$ 22,599 (7)	Out of State: \$ 48,820 (2)
2004: MT: \$ 25,000 (4)	Out of State: \$ 36,480 (2)

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

University of Colorado
University of Washington
North Carolina Sate University
Kansas State University
Montana State University - Graduate 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/Index.html>

For more information contact:



Montana State University
177 Strand Union Building
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-4353
www.montana.edu/careers

¹University of Oregon. 2007. Created by intoCareers, a unit of the University of Oregon. Montana information Montana Career Information System. Discover: 2008 by ACT, Inc.

²Montana State University Department of Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology

³Montana State University Career & Internship Services

Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2004: 18/11; 2005: 22/9; 2006: 16/10; 2007: 15/7