



WHY LICENSURE IS IMPORTANT

Licensing is a process by which a government agency grants individuals permission to engage in a specified profession or occupation upon finding that the individual applicants have attained the minimal degree of competency required to ensure that the public's health, safety and welfare will be reasonably well protected.

Being licensed:

- Conveys legal professional privileges and responsibilities and allows the licensee to use the title "landscape architect."
- Increases the number of job and advancement opportunities you will have throughout your career.
- Increases your annual earning potential by \$25,000 on average.

While it is possible to be involved with some components of the profession without being licensed, i.e. as an employee of a licensed individual, only licensed individuals can participate in all professional activities. Because of this, licensure is generally considered the threshold to the profession of landscape architecture.

In most jurisdictions, the law prohibits the use of titles that are intended to mislead the public to believe that the individual is licensed. Titles such as "landscape architectural designer" or statements offering landscape architectural design services are usually prohibited.

An individual may only provide landscape architectural services as well as use the title "landscape architect" in the jurisdictions in which they are licensed. For example, an individual who is licensed in California may provide landscape architectural services in California but not in Nevada. If the individual wishes to pursue job opportunities in Nevada, the individual will need to become licensed in that jurisdiction.

Individuals who violate either the title or the practice components of licensure laws face criminal sanctions, civil fines and the loss of fees promised in return for services rendered. In addition, licensees may have their licenses suspended or revoked and unlicensed individuals may be denied future licensure.
