



Ontario Association of
Landscape Architects

80 WAYS TO ACHIEVE YOUR CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Introduction

The Mandatory Continuing Education (MCE) Program is managed by the Registrar and credit reporting is completed using the online reporting page. A Member is able to complete credit reporting at any time during the three-year credit reporting period. Credit accumulation and reporting will finish and reset at the end of each designated three-year cycle, and will be linked with OALA dues collection.

As outlined within the [MCE Program Guide](#), Members are responsible for retaining supporting documentation of continuing education activities for at least three years, to be produced for review in the event of an audit. Activities will be eligible for credit if they fulfill the mandate outlined in the MCE Program Guide. Regular work experience is not eligible for credit. Generally, continuing education activities are eligible for 1 credit per 1 hour (minimum 50 minutes) of direct participation time in an activity (relevant social activities are eligible for up to 1 credit per event). Credits may be claimed to the nearest 0.5 credit or half hour of direct participation in an activity.

The 80 ways to Achieve Your CE Credits document is intended to provide examples to inspire and assist Members in determining how best to use the MCE program requirements to fulfill individual learning goals.

80 Ways

Category 1 - Landscape Architecture Educational Programs examples:

1. Attend the OALA Conference and AGM, including associated educational sessions, tours and keynote address;
2. Take part in an OALA social event (i.e., Christmas lunch, golf day, ski day, SoCom social night);
3. Complete a course, online or in person from the Landscape Architectural Continuing Education Society (LACES) website: <https://laces.asla.org/> ;
4. Attend the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) Congress and AGM;
5. Attend a landscape architecture chapter meeting or event in your area;
6. Take part in a learning event provided by the OALA Continuing Education Committee;
7. Attend the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Conference;
8. Attend the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) Congress.

Category 2 - Relevant Educational Program examples:

1. Attend a Green Roofs for Healthy Cities conference or webinar;
2. Complete the Water Management and Wetland Restoration course through the OMNR and Environment Canada;
3. Attend an Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) seminar or lecture;
4. Complete a tree identification course provided by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA);
5. Attend events in the University Of Toronto's Daniels Faculty Lecture Series: a popular public lecture series featuring leading professionals and academics in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, and visual studies;
6. Attend an Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) seminar or lecture;
7. Attend the National Recreation And Parks Association (NRPA) conference;
8. Take part in the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP) conference;
9. Attend the Landscape Ontario Congress;

Note: The full MCE Program Guide including category descriptions is available online in the Members' Area of the OALA website. Select the ['Mandatory Continuing Education'](#) tab, then the ['MCE FAQ and Documents'](#) tab.

10. Take part in a webinar hosted by the Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC);
11. Attend the Canada Blooms Festival workshops.

Category 3 - Self-Directed Study examples:

1. Read a book related to the profession or your practice (i.e. Designing for Microclimates) and keep notes on your learning - the OALA has a great library;
2. Read a planning and design guide for Low Impact Development (LID) and innovative stormwater management, and document your learning;
3. Tour a botanical garden while documenting your experience, noting your learning objective for the activity and keeping notes/photos of the experience;
4. Travel to a new city or country and document your experience related to landscape architecture with a stated learning objective, and notes/photos outlining how that objective was achieved;
5. Attend an in-office workshop run by one of your work colleagues while taking notes;
6. Visit the completed or in-process (where allowed...) work of another landscape architect whose projects you admire. Document your observations and experience with a stated learning objective and notes/photos;
7. Watch past events from the University of Toronto's Daniels Faculty Lecture Series while keeping study notes and a documented learning objective;
8. Take a Land8 webinar and maintain written study notes and a stated learning objective: www.land8.com;
9. Start and maintain a landscape architectural blog;
10. Attend and document your experience of a traditional or telephone town hall meeting (e.g. greenbelt review).

Category 4 - College and University Courses examples (Association of Canadian Community Colleges or Association of University and Colleges of Canada certified institutions):

1. Complete a related Masters Degree (e.g. Masters of Public Administration, Masters of Urban Design) - each course counts toward continuing education;
2. Take a correspondence course from a College or University;
3. Complete a free online University course related to the landscape architecture profession:
 - University of the People: <http://www.uopeople.edu/>
 - MIT through their open course-ware site: <http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>
 - Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC): www.edx.org/courses
4. Complete a related Doctorate Degree (PhD);
5. Complete a single course or a Certificate Program in a related topic such as Project Management or Horticulture from a University.

Category 5: Certificates, Licenses and Credentials examples:

1. Become a LEED Accredited Professional through the Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC);
2. Gain a Green Roof Professional (GRP) accreditation through Green Roofs for Healthy Cities;
3. Become a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) through the Project Management Institute;
4. Earn your ISA Certified Arborist credential;
5. Become a certified Playground Practitioner through the Ontario Parks Association (OPA);
6. Become a certified Spray Pad Practitioner through the Ontario Parks Association (OPA);
7. Earn your Envision Sustainability Professional certification through the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI);
8. Write your 4th LARE exam;
9. Complete a certificate in horticultural therapy through the Toronto Botanical Garden's Adult Education program;
10. Complete the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Course & Certificate.

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Category 6: Committee and Volunteer examples:

1. Volunteer your time with the University of Guelph to critique in-progress design projects or as a panelist for final presentations;
2. Run (and document) a workshop for your colleagues (i.e. teaching a landscape architecture related technical program or knowledge area that you are particularly skilled in);
3. Volunteer your time as a member of an OALA Committee, i.e. Marketing Committee, Social Committee (participating in the development of your profession and gain contacts in the industry at the same time!);
4. Join a jury for a municipal garden contest;
5. Volunteer your time on a community public art committee;
6. Volunteer as a Professional Advisor for an OALA Associate Member;
7. Volunteer as a Professional Development Period (PDP) reviewer for an OALA Associate Member;
8. Help organize the OALA Conference and AGM;
9. Volunteer to lead an informative hike and photographically record the results;
10. Participate in a tree planting in your community;
11. Volunteer at an OALA Continuing Education Session;
12. Guest lecture at a University or local College landscape architecture / landscape design program;
13. Volunteer your time as a member of a Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA) committee;
14. Obtain funding and implement a 'green' community project in your area;
15. Volunteer for the landscape architecture magazine editorial board;
16. Volunteer with a nature club or environmental group to collect native seed for a local restoration project;
17. Become a member of the Ontario Trail Council and volunteer your time;
18. Volunteer at an elementary school to help students brainstorm ideas for a natural playground;
19. Volunteer your time at a high school, college or university to talk about landscape architecture as a career;
20. Give (an unpaid) lecture on a topic of expertise at a conference.
21. Gather friends and colleagues to create a temporary open space installation in a metered parking space for PARKing Day: <http://parkingday.org/about-parking-day>

Category 7: Authorship examples:

1. Author a peer reviewed publication, published book or a chapter in a book;
2. Write an article and have it published in a landscape architectural magazine or journal (you get credits for publishing and for time spent preparing the article);
3. Author an article that is formally published online;
4. Write a Published (professional) Journal Article;
5. Give a lecture based on a formally published paper.

Category 8: Technical Skills Development examples:

1. Attend a 'Lunch and Learn' to learn about new products or technologies;
2. Complete safety training (i.e. First Aid, Book 7, Ontario Health and Safety Act);
3. Attend a business seminar provided by your insurance company;
4. Take a computer graphics course that will assist you with your work, (i.e. SketchUp, Photoshop);
5. Attend a seminar on Low Impact Development (LID) technologies;
6. Complete online training for accounting or other relevant office related functions;
7. Attend AutoCAD training course;
8. Attend a session to learn about communications and public engagement;
9. Complete project management training;
10. Attend an industry tour and seminar (i.e. concrete, lighting).

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