

The Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.)

Examination Specifications

Understanding the examination specifications:

The L.A.R.E. Examination Specifications are based on a job analysis conducted by CLARB in 2010-2011. Over 1,600 landscape architects across the United States and Canada were involved in updating the job analysis for landscape architects. The job analysis included five focus groups and one large-scale validation survey. Survey respondents were asked to rate all job tasks on three separate scales: how frequently the tasks were performed, how important the tasks were to successful performance of the job, and whether or not successful performance of each task was required at initial licensure. Overall, the tasks, and subsequent knowledge, that are performed most often, are considered the most important, and are required at the initial point of licensure, form the basis for the L.A.R.E.

The first three exams (Sections 1, 2, and 3) are further broken down into two subdomains. The last exam (Section 4) contains one overall domain. Below each domain or subdomain is a list of all of the tasks that will be assessed on the exam along with all of the knowledge areas that may be assessed on the exam.

Section 1 Exam – Project and Construction Management (100 items, 3 hours seat time, 2 ½ hours exam time)

Project Management (62%)

- Determine Project Scope and Client Requirements
- Establish and Monitor Project Budgets (or Statement of Probable Cost)
- Establish Scope of Services and Required Outside Expertise
- Develop Program
- Prepare and Review Contractual Agreements
- Coordinate Topographical Survey and Develop Project Base Map
- Establish Project Schedule
- Facilitate Meetings (e.g. staff, government regulators, consultants, clients)
- Coordinate Other Discipline's Documents
- Document Design Decisions and Project Communication
- Prepare Technical Memorandum and Graphics
- Obtain Input from Stakeholders Regarding Project
- Coordinate Construction Documents (internally, with clients, and with other consultants)

Bidding and Construction (38%)

- Respond to Bidder Requests for Information
- Issue Addenda to Construction Documents
- Participate in Construction Meetings
- Respond to Contractor Requests for Information
- Review and Respond to Submittals
- Review and Respond to Shop Drawings
- Prepare Change Orders
- Conduct Construction Site Review and Documentation
- Perform Substantial Completion Inspection
- Perform Final Inspection

Section 2 Exam – Inventory and Analysis (80 items, 2 ½ hours seat time, 2 hours exam time)

Site Inventory (22%)

- Determine Applicable Codes, Regulations, and Permitting Requirements
- Conduct Onsite Investigation
- Collect and Record Site Inventory
- Identify Gaps and Deficiencies

Analysis of Existing Conditions (78%)

- Analyze Codes and Regulations for Design Impact
- Perform Site Use Analysis
- Perform Circulation Analysis
- Interpret Utility Analysis
- Perform View Analysis
- Perform Microclimate Analysis
- Interpret Floodplain Conditions
- Perform Vegetation Analysis
- Perform Solar Analysis
- Interpret Ecological Analysis (e.g. habitat, biodiversity)
- Perform a Slope Analysis
- Interpret Soil Analysis
- Interpret Geotechnical Analysis
- Perform Small-Scale Surface Hydrological Analysis
- Interpret Stakeholder Input
- Analyze On and Offsite Relationships

Section 3 Exam – Design (100 items; 4 hours seat time, 3 ½ hours exam time)

Concept Development (58%)

- Synthesize Site Opportunities and Constraints
- Refine Program
- Create Design Alternatives
- Analyze Design Alternatives
- Develop Concept Narrative
- Refine Conceptual Design(s)
- Prepare Conceptual Renderings*

**The intent is to address candidates' understanding of types and uses of rendering techniques. We do not expect candidates to actually "draw".*

Design Development (42%)

- Develop Master Plan Documents (e.g. land-use, circulation, phasing plan, and guidelines)
- Perform Earthwork Analysis
- Refine the Preferred Design Alternative
- Develop Preliminary Site Plans, Sections, and Details
- Prepare Illustrative Graphics (e.g. perspectives, elevations, plans, sections)
- Investigate, Verify Availability, and Select Design Materials and Components

Section 4 Exam – Grading, Drainage and Construction Documentation (120 items; 4 ½ hours seat time, 4 hours exam time)

Section 4 Exam (100%)

- Prepare Existing Conditions Plan
- Prepare Demolition and Removal Plan
- Prepare Site Protection and Preservation Plans (e.g. soil, existing features, existing pavements, historic elements, vegetation)
- Prepare Erosion and Sediment-Control Plan
- Prepare Layout and Materials Plan
- Prepare Grading Plan
- Prepare Stormwater Management Plan
- Prepare Planting Plans
- Prepare Project Sections and Profiles
- Prepare Construction Details
- Prepare General Contract and Bidding Specifications
- Prepare Technical Specifications