

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINING BOARD[193D]

Prior to 3/9/88, see Landscape Architectural Examiners Board[540]
[Landscape Architectural Examining Board[193D] created by 1986 Iowa Acts, ch 1245, §728
within the Professional Licensing and Regulation Division[193] of the Commerce Department[181] “umbrella”]

CHAPTER 1

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

1.1(544B,17A)	Definitions
1.2(544B,17A)	Organization and duties
1.3(544B,17A)	Meetings
1.4(544B,17A)	Order of business
1.5(17A)	Interim waivers

CHAPTER 2

EXAMINATIONS AND LICENSING

2.1(544B,17A)	Application for licensure by examination
2.2(544B,17A)	Procedure for processing applications
2.3(544B,17A)	Registration of applicants
2.4(544B,17A)	Written examination
2.5(544B,17A)	Exemption from written examination
2.6(544B,17A)	Certificate of licensure
2.7(17A,272C,544B)	Renewal of certificates of licensure
2.8(544B,17A)	Reinstatement
2.9(544B,17A)	Responsibility for accuracy of applications
2.10(544B,17A)	Fee schedule

CHAPTER 3

CONTINUING EDUCATION

3.1(544B,17A)	Definitions
3.2(544B,17A)	Continuing education requirements
3.3(544B,17A)	Compliance
3.4(544B,17A)	Hearings
3.5(544B,17A)	Physical disability, illness, hardship, or extenuating circumstances
3.6(544B,17A)	Methods of compliance and exemptions
3.7(544B,17A)	Grounds for denial of license renewal

CHAPTER 4

RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

4.1(544B,17A)	Rules of conduct
4.2(544B,17A)	Receipt of complaints
4.3(544B,17A)	Peer review committee
4.4(544B,272C)	Investigation report of complaints
4.5(544B,272C)	Dispensation

CHAPTER 1
DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

[Prior to 3/9/88, see Landscape Architectural Examiners Board[540] Ch 1]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/4/30

193D—1.1(544B,17A) Definitions. As used in these rules, the following definitions of words and terms shall apply:

“*Board*” means the landscape architectural examining board.

“*CLARB*” means the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.

“*Evidence*” means any document or record of any kind of drawings, specifications, photographs, diplomas, licensee statements, published data and certified personal statements as may be required as a part of any action on the part of the board. Each item of evidence shall be clearly marked to ensure positive and certain identification. It is the responsibility of the applicant to satisfy the board as to the sufficiency of the record and the evidence.

“*Inactive*” means that a landscape architect is not engaged in Iowa in any practice for which a certificate of licensure is required.

“*Intern landscape architect*” means an individual who is not licensed and has a degree in landscape architecture and is employed under the direct supervision of a professional landscape architect. The initials “I.L.A.” should not be used.

“*LARE*” means the Landscape Architecture Registration Examination.

“*Practice of landscape architecture*” means the performance of professional service or offering to render professional services to clients, including any one or any combination of the professional services defined in Iowa Code section 544B.1(2).

“*Professional landscape architect*” means a person who obtains a license and engages in the practice of landscape architecture under the authority of Iowa Code chapter 544B. For the purposes of these rules, a professional landscape architect may be referred to as a landscape architect and may use the initials “P.L.A.”

“*Years of practical experience*” means, for each year of practical experience the applicant has worked performing landscape architectural services, a minimum of 2,080 hours per year.

[ARC 9154C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—1.2(544B,17A) Organization and duties. The board consists of five licensed professional landscape architects and two members who are not licensed professional landscape architects and who represent the general public.

1.2(1) *Qualifications of professional landscape architect board members.* Four of the five professional members will be actively engaged in the practice of landscape architecture or the teaching of landscape architecture in an accredited college or university and shall have been so engaged for five years preceding appointment, the last two of which shall have been in Iowa. One of the five professional members will be actively engaged in the practice of landscape architecture or the teaching of landscape architecture in an accredited college or university and may have been so engaged for fewer than five years preceding.

1.2(2) *Election of chairperson and vice chairperson.* The board elects annually from its members a chairperson and a vice chairperson. A quorum of the board will be four members, and all final motions and actions must receive a vote by a majority of the members of the board.

1.2(3) *Duties of board.* The board enforces the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 544B and makes rules for the examination of applications for licensure. The board keeps records of its proceedings. The board adopts an official seal that is affixed to all certificates of licensure granted. The board makes other rules, not inconsistent with law, as necessary for the proper performance of its duties. The board maintains a roster showing the name, place of business, residence, and date and number of the certificate of licensure of every professional landscape architect in the state.

1.2(4) *Duties of chairperson.* The chairperson will, when present, preside at meetings, appoint committees, and perform all duties and powers of the chairperson.

1.2(5) Duties of vice chairperson. The vice chairperson will, in the absence or incapacity of the chairperson, exercise the duties and powers of the chairperson.

[ARC 9154C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—1.3(544B,17A) Meetings. Calls for meetings are issued in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.4.

[ARC 9154C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—1.4(544B,17A) Order of business. The board executive will prepare an agenda listing all matters to be discussed at meetings. A copy of this agenda will be available to each member of the board.

[ARC 9154C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—1.5(17A) Interim waivers. In addition to the provisions of 481—Chapter 6, the following will apply for interim rulings:

1.5(1) The board chairperson, or vice chairperson if the chairperson is not available, may rule on a petition for waiver when it would not be timely to wait for the next regularly scheduled board meeting for a ruling from the board.

1.5(2) The board administrator, upon receipt of a petition that meets all applicable criteria established in 481—Chapter 6, will present the request to the board chairperson or vice chairperson along with all pertinent information regarding established precedent for granting or denying such requests.

1.5(3) The chairperson or vice chairperson will reserve the right to hold an electronic meeting of the board when prior board precedent does not clearly resolve the request, input of the board is deemed required and the practical result of waiting until the next regularly scheduled meeting would be a denial of the request due to timing issues.

1.5(4) A waiver report will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled board meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

1.5(5) This rule on interim rulings does not apply if the waiver was filed in a contested case.

[ARC 9154C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 544B.3, 544B.5, and 544B.15.

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CHAPTER 2
EXAMINATIONS AND LICENSING

[Prior to 3/9/88, see Landscape Architectural Examiners Board[540] Ch 2]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/4/30

193D—2.1(544B,17A) Application for licensure by examination.

2.1(1) Candidates will contact CLARB to start the examination licensure process by creating a council record. A candidate's council record will include verified history of the candidate's education, experience, examination and licensure history, and professional references and is used to apply for examination, licensure and certification.

2.1(2) The candidate who successfully completes the LARE will complete an online application for certificate of licensure to the board after meeting one of the requirements listed below and requesting that the candidate's council record be transmitted to the board.

a. Graduation from a course in landscape architecture in a school, college, or university offering an accredited minimum four-year curriculum in landscape architecture, and a minimum of three years of practical experience in landscape architectural work that in the opinion of the board is of satisfactory character, at least one year of which must be under the supervision of a professional landscape architect or a person who becomes a professional landscape architect within one year after July 1, 2002.

b. Graduation from a nonaccredited course of landscape architecture of a minimum of four years in a school, college, or university and a minimum of four years of practical experience in landscape architectural work that in the opinion of the board is of satisfactory character, at least one year of which must be under the supervision of a professional landscape architect.

c. A minimum of ten years of practical experience in landscape architectural work that in the opinion of the board is of satisfactory character to properly prepare the applicant for the examination.

2.1(3) A satisfactorily completed year of study in an accredited course of landscape architecture in an accredited school, college, or university may be accepted in lieu of one year of practical experience.

2.1(4) A master's degree from an accredited school, college, or university may be accepted in lieu of one year of practical experience.

2.1(5) Any four-year college or university degree may be accepted in lieu of two years of practical experience.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.2(544B,17A) Procedure for processing applications. The board executive will determine when the legal requirements for licensure have been satisfied with regard to issuance of certificates, licenses or registrations, and the board executive will submit to the board any questionable application. An applicant's personal appearance before the board, if required, will be at the time and place designated by the board. Failure to supply additional evidence or information within 30 days from the date of the written request from the board, or failure to appear before the board when an appearance is requested, may be considered cause for disapproval of the application. Unless otherwise provided by law, a request for a rehearing before the board will be filed with the board in accordance with rule 193—7.39(543,272C). A judicial review can be filed in accordance with Iowa Code section 17A.19.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.3(544B,17A) Registration of applicants. Applicants must meet the requirements of Iowa Code section 544B.9 for registration.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.4(544B,17A) Written examination. The written examination will consist of the professional landscape architectural licensure examination published by CLARB and may include supplementary questions developed by the board.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.5(544B,17A) Exemption from written examination. The board may exempt from written examination an applicant who meets one of the following criteria:

2.5(1) The applicant holds a current CLARB certificate;

2.5(2) The applicant holds a license to practice landscape architecture issued upon written examination by another jurisdiction and has submitted a certificate from the jurisdiction of original licensure verifying that the applicant passed the examination in that jurisdiction; or

2.5(3) The applicant:

a. Holds an active license to practice landscape architecture issued by another jurisdiction whose current licensure requirements, including the examination requirements, are substantially equivalent to or exceed those required for licensure as a landscape architect in Iowa, and during the time period in which the applicant was issued an initial license in the other jurisdiction, that jurisdiction did not require a written examination for initial applicants but did require board review and approval of education and experience designed to demonstrate competence to practice;

b. Was grandfathered in under the laws of the other jurisdiction before written examinations for initial licensure were mandated by the other jurisdiction; and

c. Submits a certificate from the jurisdiction of original licensure verifying that the applicant was licensed during the period in which there was no written examination and submits proof of license in good standing.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.6(544B,17A) Certificate of licensure. When an applicant has qualified for licensure under this chapter and has paid the required license fee, board staff will enroll the applicant's name in the roster of professional landscape architects and issue to the applicant a certificate of licensure.

2.6(1) License number. The certificate will indicate the license number of the landscape architect that must appear on the professional landscape architect's seal and on all works signed by the professional landscape architect.

2.6(2) Certificate. Only one certificate of licensure will be issued to a professional landscape architect. The certificate will be displayed in a conspicuous place at the place of employment.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.7(17A,272C,544B) Renewal of certificates of licensure. Certificates of licensure expire biennially on June 30. In order to maintain authorization to practice in Iowa, a licensee is required to renew the certificate of licensure prior to July 1 of the year of expiration. A licensee who fails to renew by the expiration date is not authorized to practice landscape architecture in Iowa until the certificate is reinstated as provided in rule 193D—2.8(544B,17A).

2.7(1) It is the policy of the board to email to each licensee a notice of the pending expiration date at the licensee's last-known address approximately one month prior to the date the certificate of licensure is scheduled to expire. Failure to receive this notice does not relieve the licensee of the responsibility to timely renew the certificate and pay the renewal fee. A licensee should contact the board office if the licensee does not receive a renewal notice prior to the date of expiration.

2.7(2) If grounds exist to deny a timely and sufficient application to renew, the board will send notification to the applicant. Grounds may exist to deny an application to renew if, for instance, the licensee failed to satisfy the continuing education as required as a condition for licensure. If the basis for denial is pending disciplinary action or disciplinary investigation that is reasonably expected to culminate in disciplinary action, the board will proceed as provided in 193—Chapter 7. If the basis for denial is not related to a pending or imminent disciplinary action, the applicant may contest the board's decision as provided in 193—subrule 7.40(1).

2.7(3) When a licensee appears to be in violation of mandatory continuing education requirements, and after or in lieu of giving the licensee an opportunity to come into compliance under 193D—subrule 3.3(3), the board may, in lieu of proceeding to a contested case hearing on the denial of a renewal application as provided in rule 193—7.40(546,272C), offer the licensee the opportunity to sign a consent order. While the terms of the consent order will be tailored to the specific circumstances at issue, the consent order will typically impose a penalty between \$50 and \$250, depending on the severity of the

violation; establish deadlines for compliance; and require that the licensee complete hours equal to double the deficiency in addition to the required hours; and may impose additional educational requirements on the licensee. Any additional hours completed in compliance with the consent order cannot again be claimed at the next renewal. The board will address subsequent offenses on a case-by-case basis. A licensee is free to accept or reject the offer. If the offer of settlement is accepted, the licensee will be issued a renewed certificate of licensure and will be subject to disciplinary action if the terms of the consent order are not complied with. If the offer of settlement is rejected, the matter will be set for hearing, if timely requested by the licensee pursuant to 193—subrule 7.40(1).

2.7(4) The board may notify licensees whose certificates of licensure have expired. The failure of the board to provide this courtesy notification or the failure of the licensee to receive the notification will not extend the date of expiration.

2.7(5) A licensee who continues to practice landscape architecture in Iowa after licensure has expired will be subject to disciplinary action. Such unauthorized activity may also be grounds to deny a licensee's application for reinstatement.

2.7(6) Licensees will notify the board within 30 days of any change of address or business connection.

2.7(7) Inactive status. This subrule establishes a procedure under which a person issued a certificate of licensure as a landscape architect may apply to the board to register as inactive. Licensure under this subrule is available to a licensee residing within or outside the state of Iowa who is not using the title "landscape architect" while offering services as a landscape architect. A person eligible to register as inactive may, as an alternative to licensure, allow the certificate of licensure to lapse. During any period of inactive status, a person will not engage in the practice of landscape architecture while using the title "landscape architect" or any other title that might imply that the person is offering services as a landscape architect in violation of Iowa Code section 544B.18. The board will continue to maintain a database of persons licensed as inactive, including information that is not routinely maintained after a certificate of licensure has lapsed through the person's failure to renew. A person who registers as inactive will accordingly receive a renewal notice if the notice is sent by the board, board newsletters, and other mass communications from the board.

a. Affirmation. The renewal application will contain a statement in which the applicant affirms that the applicant will not engage in the practice of landscape architecture while using the title "landscape architect" in violation of Iowa Code section 544B.18, without first complying with all rules governing reinstatement to active status. A person on inactive status may reinstate to active status at any time pursuant to rule 193D—2.8(544B,17A).

b. Renewal. A person licensed as inactive may renew the person's certificate of licensure on the biennial schedule described in this rule. This person will be exempt from the continuing education requirements and will be charged a reduced renewal fee as provided in rule 193D—2.10(544B,17A). An inactive certificate of licensure will lapse if not timely renewed.

c. Permitted practices. A person may, while licensed as inactive, perform for a client, business, employer, government body, or other entity those services that may lawfully be provided by a person to whom a certificate of licensure has never been issued. For an "inactive" licensee, such services may be performed as long as the person does not in connection with such services use the title "landscape architect" or any other title restricted for use only by landscape architects pursuant to Iowa Code section 544B.18 (with or without additional designations such as "inactive"). Restricted titles may be used only by active landscape architects who are subject to continuing education requirements to ensure that the use of such titles is consistently associated with the maintenance of competency through continuing education.

d. Prohibited practices. A person who, while licensed as inactive, engages in any of the practices described in Iowa Code section 544B.18 is subject to disciplinary action.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.8(544B,17A) Reinstatement.

2.8(1) An individual may reinstate a lapsed certificate of licensure to active status as follows:

a. Pay the current renewal fee;

b. Pay the reinstatement fee of \$100 plus \$25 per month or partial month of expired licensure up to a maximum of \$750. All applicants for reinstatement shall be assessed the \$100 reinstatement fee. The \$25-per-month fee shall not be assessed if the applicant for reinstatement did not, during the period of lapse, engage in any acts or practices for which an active landscape architect license is required in Iowa. Falsely claiming an exemption from the monthly fee is a ground for discipline; in addition, other grounds for discipline may arise from practicing on a lapsed certificate, license or permit to practice;

c. Provide a written statement outlining the professional activities that the applicant performed in Iowa during the period of nonlicensure. The statement shall include a list of all projects with which the applicant had involvement and shall explain the service provided by the applicant; and

d. Submit documented evidence of completion of continuing education based on the licensee's date of licensure.

(1) A professional landscape architect who holds a license in Iowa for less than 12 months from the date of initial licensure will not be required to report continuing education on the June 30 renewal on which the applicant failed to renew and 12 continuing education hours for each year or portion of a year of expired licensure up to a maximum of 48 continuing education hours; however, the hours reported will not have been earned more than four years prior to the date of the application to reinstate to active status.

(2) A professional landscape architect who holds a license in Iowa for more than 12 months, but less than 24 months from the date of initial licensure, will be required to report 12 contact hours that should have been reported on the June 30 renewal on which the applicant failed to renew and 12 continuing education hours for each year or portion of a year of expired licensure up to a maximum of 48 continuing education hours; however, the hours reported will not have been earned more than four years prior to the date of the application to reinstate to active status.

(3) A professional landscape architect who holds a license in Iowa for 24 months or more from the date of initial licensure will be required to report 24 contact hours that should have been reported on the June 30 renewal on which the applicant failed to renew and 12 continuing education hours for each year or portion of a year of expired licensure up to a maximum of 48 continuing education hours; however, the hours reported shall not have been earned more than four years prior to the date of the application to reinstate to active status.

(4) All continuing education hours must be completed in health, safety, and welfare subjects acquired in structured educational activities and be in compliance with the requirements in 193D—Chapter 3. The continuing education hours used for reinstatement may not be used again at the next renewal.

(5) Out-of-state residents may submit a statement from their resident state's licensing board as documented evidence of compliance with their resident state's mandatory continuing education requirements during the period of nonlicensure. The statement will bear the seal of the licensing board. Out-of-state residents whose resident state has no mandatory continuing education will comply with the documented evidence requirements outlined in this subrule.

2.8(2) An individual may reinstate an inactive license to an active license as follows:

a. The individual will pay the current active licensure fee. If the individual is reinstating to active status at a date that is less than 12 months from the next biennial renewal date, one-half of the current active licensure fee will be paid.

b. The individual will submit documented evidence of completion of 24 contact hours of continuing education in health, safety, and welfare subjects in compliance with the requirements in 193D—Chapter 3. The continuing education hours used for reinstatement to active status cannot be used again at the next renewal.

c. The individual will complete the appropriate continuing education for subsequent renewals.

(1) At the first biennial renewal date of July 1 that is less than 12 months from the date of the filing of the application to restore the certificate of licensure to active status, the individual will not be required to report continuing education.

(2) At the first biennial renewal date of July 1 that is more than 12 months, but less than 24 months, from the date of the filing of the application to restore the certificate of licensure to active status, the individual will report 12 hours of previously unreported continuing education.

d. The individual will provide a written statement in which the applicant affirms that the applicant has not engaged in any of the practices in Iowa that are listed in Iowa Code section 544B.1(2) during the period of inactive licensure.

2.8(3) The board will review reinstatement applications on a case-by-case basis and may, at its discretion, require that the applicant take the LARE as a prerequisite to reinstatement to active status.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.9(544B,17A) Responsibility for accuracy of applications. The landscape architect is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information submitted on applications regardless of how the application is submitted or by whom it is submitted. For instance, if the office manager of a landscape architect's firm submits an application for renewal on behalf of the landscape architect and that information is incorrect, the landscape architect will be held responsible for the information and may be subject to disciplinary action.

[ARC 9155C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—2.10(544B,17A) Fee schedule. The appropriate fee shall accompany the application.

Fees for examination subjects shall be paid directly to the testing service selected by CLARB.	
Exemption fee	\$300
(This certificate of licensure is to be effective to the June 30 which is at least 12 months beyond the date of the application.)	
Wall certificate replacement fee	\$25
Certificate of licensure fee	\$15/month
(This certificate of licensure is to be effective the day of board action until June 30.)	
Biennial licensure fee (active)	\$350
Biennial licensure fee (inactive)	\$100
Reinstatement of lapsed licensure to active status	\$100 + renewal fee + \$25 per month or partial month of lapsed licensure; not to exceed \$750
Reinstatement of inactive or retired status to active status	\$350
(If less than 12 months from the next biennial renewal, one-half of the current active licensure fee shall be paid.)	
Prelicense determination fee	\$25

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CHAPTER 3
CONTINUING EDUCATION

[Prior to 3/9/88, see Landscape Architectural Examiners Board[540] Ch 3]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/4/30

193D—3.1(544B,17A) Definitions. As used in these rules, the following definitions will apply:

“Distance learning” means any education process based on the geographical separation of student and instructor. “Distance learning” includes computer-generated programs, webinars, and home-study/correspondence programs.

“Health, safety, and welfare subjects” means technical and professional subjects that the board deems appropriate to directly safeguard the public’s health, safety, and welfare. Such subjects include design, environmental systems, site design, land use analyses, landscape architecture programming, grading and drainage, storm water management, erosion control, site and soil analyses, accessibility, building codes, review of state registration laws including the rules of professional conduct, evaluation and selection of products and materials, cost analysis, construction methods, contract documentation, construction contract administration, construction administration, construction-phase office procedures, project management, and the like.

“Hours of continuing education” means a contact hour spent in either structured educational activities or individually planned activities intended to increase the professional landscape architect’s knowledge and competence in public protection subjects and related practice subjects. “Contact hour” is defined as the typical 50-minute classroom instructional session or its equivalent.

“Structured educational activities” means educational activities in which the teaching methodology consists primarily of systematic presentation of public protection subjects or related practice subjects by qualified individuals or organizations including monographs, courses of study taught in person or by correspondence, organized lectures, presentations or workshops, and other means through which identifiable technical and professional subjects are presented in a planned manner.

[ARC 9156C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—3.2(544B,17A) Continuing education requirements. In order for professional landscape architects to provide competent, professional services to the public, continuing education will consist of learning experiences that enhance, expand and keep current the skills, knowledge, and abilities of practicing professionals. Professional landscape architects may pursue learning experiences in technical, nontechnical, regulatory, ethics and business practice areas, provided that the continuing education directly benefits the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

3.2(1) Hours required. Each registrant will complete during each two-year licensing term a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education approved by the board. Compliance with the continuing education requirements is a prerequisite for license renewal.

3.2(2) Within any biennial renewal period, 24 hours of continuing education must be acquired and will be in health, safety, and welfare subjects acquired in structured educational activities. A licensee may apply up to 12 continuing education hours obtained in excess of the requirement for a renewal period to the continuing education requirements for the following renewal period. Continuing education hours may be acquired in any location.

3.2(3) A professional landscape architect who holds a license in Iowa for less than 12 months from the date of initial licensure will not be required to report continuing education at the first license renewal. A professional landscape architect who holds a license in Iowa for more than 12 months but less than 24 months from the date of initial licensure will be required to report 12 hours of continuing education in health, safety, and welfare subjects earned in the preceding 12 months at the first license renewal.

3.2(4) Sources of continuing education. The following suggested list may be used by all licensees to determine the types of activities that may fulfill the continuing education requirements. All hours of continuing education must also comply with the directive in subrule 3.2(2).

a. Hours of continuing education in attendance at short courses or seminars dealing with landscape architectural subjects and sponsored by colleges, universities or professional organizations.

b. Hours of continuing education in attendance at presentations on landscape architectural subjects that are held in conjunction with conventions or at seminars related to material use and function. Presentations such as those presented by CLARB, American Society of Landscape Architects, Construction Specification Institute, Construction Products Manufacturers Council or similar organizations devoted to landscape architecture education may qualify.

c. Hours of continuing education in attendance at short courses or seminars relating to business practice or new technology and offered by colleges, universities, professional organizations or system suppliers.

d. Hours of continuing education spent presenting or teaching courses or seminars in landscape architecture. Three preparation hours may be claimed for each class hour spent teaching landscape architectural courses or seminars. College or university faculty members may not claim credit for teaching regular curriculum courses.

e. Hours of continuing education spent learning through professional service to the public that draws upon the licensee's professional expertise on boards and commissions, such as serving on planning commissions, building code advisory boards, urban renewal boards, code study commissions or community boards. Hours of continuing education under this paragraph will be limited to six hours earned in any biennial renewal period.

f. Hours of continuing education spent in landscape architectural research that is published or formally presented to the profession or public. Credit may be claimed only following proof of publication or presentation. Hours of continuing education under this paragraph will be limited to 12 hours earned in any biennial renewal period.

g. Hours of continuing education spent in distance learning that concludes with an examination or other verification of course completion.

h. College or university courses dealing with landscape architectural subjects or business practices. Each semester hour equals 15 hours of continuing education. A quarter hour equals ten hours of continuing education.

i. Hours of continuing education spent in educational tours or tours in areas significant to landscape architecture when the tour is sponsored by college, university or professional organizations and verification of participation is provided by the tour sponsor. Self-guided tours do not qualify. Hours of continuing education under this paragraph will be limited to six hours earned in any biennial renewal period.

j. Hours of continuing education spent attending in-house educational programs, including dinner, luncheon, and breakfast meetings.

3.2(5) Financing. It is the responsibility of each licensee to finance the costs for continuing education. [ARC 9156C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—3.3(544B,17A) Compliance.

3.3(1) Each professional landscape architect will file with the board a signed report, under penalty of perjury, on forms provided by the board or by online renewal, setting forth the continuing education activities in which the professional landscape architect has participated. The report will be filed with the renewal application for each two-year renewal period in which the claimed hours of continuing education were completed. The information in the report will include:

- a.* The school, firm or organization conducting the course.
- b.* The location of the course.
- c.* The title of the course and a description of the content.
- d.* Names of the principal instructor(s).
- e.* The dates attended.
- f.* All hours claimed.

g. In instances of service on a professional or community board, or other undocumented hours of continuing education (non-health, safety, and welfare documentation such as learning units or professional development hours), the licensee will provide a narrative description of the materials the licensee reviewed, the nature of the licensee's service, and a description as to how the licensee's claimed hours of continuing education have contributed to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

This information shall be kept by the licensee for reported hours of continuing education for two years.

3.3(2) A professional landscape architect's continuing education report forms or online renewal may be selected for review by the board for verification of compliance with these requirements. Evidence of compliance will be maintained by the professional landscape architect for two years after the period for which the form was submitted and will include written verification of attendance by someone other than the licensee. Examples of evidence may include but are not limited to a certificate of completion presented by the program sponsor, a letter from an employer verifying attendance at an in-firm training session, or copies of minutes from public service meetings. Canceled checks, slideshow presentations, email confirmation or receipts for payments of fees to attend a program are not evidence of actual attendance and are not acceptable.

3.3(3) Any discrepancy between the number of continuing education hours reported and the number of continuing education hours actually supported by documentation may result in a disciplinary review. If, after the disciplinary review, the board disallows any continuing education hours, or the licensee has failed to complete the required continuing education hours, the landscape architect will have 60 days from board notice to either provide further evidence of having completed the continuing education hours disallowed or remedy the discrepancy by completing the required number of continuing education hours (provided that such continuing education hours will not again be used for the next renewal). Extension of time may be granted on an individual basis and will be requested by the licensee within 30 days of notification by the board. If the licensee fails to comply with the requirements of this subrule, the licensee may be subject to disciplinary action.

[ARC 9156C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—3.4(544B,17A) Hearings. In the event of denial, in whole or in part, of any application for approval of credit for continuing education activity, the licensee will have the right, within 20 days after the date of notification of the denial by mail, to request a hearing by the board. The hearing will be held within 60 days after receipt of the request for the hearing. The decision of the board will be final.

[ARC 9156C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—3.5(544B,17A) Physical disability, illness, hardship, or extenuating circumstances. The board may, in individual cases involving physical disability, illness (certified by a medical doctor), hardship, or extenuating circumstances, grant waivers of the continuing education requirements for a period of time not to exceed one year. No waiver or extension of time will be granted unless the licensee makes a written request to the board for such action.

[ARC 9156C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—3.6(544B,17A) Methods of compliance and exemptions.

3.6(1) A licensee licensed to practice as a professional landscape architect will be deemed to have complied with the continuing education requirements during the continuing education compliance period that the licensee:

- a. Serves honorably on active duty in the military service; or
- b. Resides in another state or district having a continuing education requirement for the occupation or profession and meets all the requirements of that state or district for practice therein; or
- c. Is a government employee working as a professional landscape architect and assigned to duty outside the United States; or
- d. Is approved by the board for periods of active practice and absence from the state.

3.6(2) If the licensee was not engaged in active practice as a professional landscape architect and will maintain inactive status during the period for which renewal is requested, the board may exempt the licensee from continuing education. No exemption will be granted without a written request from the licensee.

[ARC 9156C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—3.7(544B,17A) Grounds for denial of license renewal. Failure of a licensee to complete the continuing education requirements as set forth in this chapter, failure to file a report of completed continuing education, or failure to submit a written request for waiver or exemption will be grounds for the board to deny renewal of the license.

[ARC 9156C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

This chapter is intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A and 544B and Executive Order 10.

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CHAPTER 4
RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

[Prior to 3/9/88, see Landscape Architectural Examiners Board[540] Ch 4]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/4/30

193D—4.1(544B,17A) Rules of conduct. Failure by a licensee to adhere to the provisions of Iowa Code chapters 272C and 544B and rules implementing either chapter will be grounds for disciplinary action.

4.1(1) Definition. The following definition applies as used in Iowa Code chapter 544B and this chapter unless the context otherwise requires.

“Official copy” means technical submission for purposes of required approval.

4.1(2) Competence.

a. When practicing landscape architecture, a professional landscape architect will act with reasonable care and competence and will apply the technical knowledge and skill that is ordinarily applied by a landscape architect of good standing practicing in the same locality.

b. When designing a project, a professional landscape architect will take into account all applicable state and municipal building laws and regulations. While professional landscape architects may rely on the advice of other professionals (e.g., attorneys, architects, engineers and other qualified persons) as to the intent and meaning of the regulations, once such advice is obtained, a landscape architect will not knowingly design a project in violation of these laws and regulations.

c. A professional landscape architect will undertake to perform professional services only when the professional landscape architect together with those whom the professional landscape architect may engage as consultants are qualified by education, training and experience in the specific technical areas involved.

d. No person will be permitted to practice landscape architecture if, in the board’s judgment, upon receipt of medical testimony or evidence, the person’s professional competence is substantially impaired by physical or mental disabilities or substance abuse.

4.1(3) Conflict of interest.

a. A professional landscape architect will not accept compensation for services from more than one party on a project unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to (such disclosures and agreement to be in writing) by all interested parties.

b. If a professional landscape architect has any business association or direct or indirect financial interest that is substantial enough to influence judgment in connection with the professional landscape architect’s performance of professional services, the professional landscape architect will fully disclose, in writing, to the client or employer the nature of the business association or financial interest. If the client or employer objects to the association or financial interest, the professional landscape architect shall either terminate such association or interest or offer to give up the commission or employment.

c. A professional landscape architect will not solicit or accept compensation from material or equipment suppliers in return for specifying or endorsing the products.

d. When acting as the interpreter of building contract documents and the judge of contract performance, a professional landscape architect shall render decisions impartially, favoring neither party to the contract.

4.1(4) Full disclosure.

a. A professional landscape architect making public statements on landscape architectural questions will disclose when compensation is being received for making the statements.

b. A professional landscape architect will accurately represent to a prospective or existing client or employer the professional landscape architect’s qualifications and the scope of the professional landscape architect’s responsibility in connection with work for which the professional landscape architect is claiming credit.

c. If, in the course of work on a project, a professional landscape architect becomes aware of an action taken by the employer or client against the professional landscape architect’s advice that violates applicable state or municipal building laws and regulations and that will, in the professional landscape architect’s judgment, adversely affect the safety to the public of the finished project, the professional landscape architect shall:

(1) Report the decision to the local building inspector or other public official charged with enforcement of the applicable state or municipal building laws and regulations,

(2) Refuse to consent to the decision, and

(3) In circumstances when the professional landscape architect reasonably believes that other actions will be taken, notwithstanding the landscape architect's objection, terminate the professional landscape architect's services with reference to the project. In the case of a termination in accordance with this clause, the professional landscape architect will have no liability to the professional landscape architect's client or employer on account of such termination.

d. A professional landscape architect will not deliberately make a materially false statement or deliberately fail to disclose a material fact requested in connection with application for licensure or renewal of license.

e. A professional landscape architect will not assist in the application for licensure of a person known by the professional landscape architect to be unqualified with respect to education, training, experience or character.

f. A professional landscape architect possessing knowledge of a violation of these rules by another professional landscape architect will report the knowledge to the board.

4.1(5) *Compliance with laws.*

a. A professional landscape architect will not, in the conduct of landscape architectural practice, knowingly violate any state or federal criminal law.

b. A professional landscape architect will neither offer nor make any payment to a government official (whether elected or appointed) with the intent of influencing the official's judgment in connection with a prospective or existing project in which the professional landscape architect is interested.

c. A professional landscape architect will comply with the licensure laws and regulations governing the landscape architect's professional practice in any United States jurisdiction.

4.1(6) *Professional conduct.*

a. Each office maintained for the preparation of drawings, specifications, reports or other professional work will have a professional landscape architect regularly employed in or assigned to that office who has responsible control of such work.

b. A professional landscape architect will not sign or seal drawings, specifications, reports or other professional work for which the landscape architect does not have direct professional knowledge and direct supervisory control, provided, however, that in the case of the portions of professional work prepared by the landscape architect's consultants, licensed under this or another professional licensure law of this jurisdiction, the professional landscape architect may sign or seal that portion of the professional work if the landscape architect has reviewed that portion, has coordinated its preparation and intends to be responsible for its adequacy.

c. A professional landscape architect will neither offer nor make any gifts to any public official with the intent of influencing the official's judgment in connection with a project in which the professional landscape architect is interested. Nothing in this rule shall prohibit a professional landscape architect from providing landscape architect services as a charitable contribution.

d. A professional landscape architect will not engage in conduct involving fraud or wanton disregard of the rights of others.

4.1(7) *Seal and certificate of responsibility.*

a. Each professional landscape architect will procure a seal with which to identify all technical submissions issued by the professional landscape architect for use in Iowa as provided in Iowa Code section 544B.12.

b. Description of seal. The diameter of the outside circle shall be approximately 1¾ inches. The seal will include the name of the professional landscape architect and the words "Professional Landscape Architect, State of Iowa." The professional landscape architect's Iowa license number will be included. The seal shall substantially conform to the sample shown below.

c. A legible rubber stamp, an electronic image or other facsimile of the seal may be used.

d. Each technical submission to a client or any public agency, hereinafter referred to as the official copy, will contain an information block on its first page or on an attached cover sheet with application of a

seal by the professional landscape architect in responsible charge and an information block with application of a seal by each professional consultant contributing to the technical submission. The seal and original signature will be applied only to a final technical submission. Each official copy of a technical submission shall be stapled, bound or otherwise attached together so as to clearly establish the complete extent of the technical submission. Each information block shall display the seal of the individual responsible for that portion of the technical submission. The area of responsibility for each sealing professional will be designated in the area provided in the information block, so that responsibility for the entire technical submission is clearly established by the combination of the stated seal responsibilities. The information block shall substantially conform to the sample shown below:

SEAL	<p>I hereby certify that the portion of this technical submission described below was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and responsible charge. I am a duly licensed professional landscape architect under the laws of the state of Iowa.</p> <hr/> <p>Printed or typed name or secure electronic signature</p> <hr/> <p>Signature</p> <hr/> <p>Pages or sheets covered by this seal:</p> <hr/>
License Expires:	<hr/> <hr/>

e. The information requested in each information block must be typed or legibly printed in permanent ink or digital signature as defined in or governed by Iowa Code chapter 554D on each official copy. An electronic signature as defined in or governed by Iowa Code chapter 554D meets the signature requirements of this rule if it is protected by a security procedure, as defined in Iowa Code section 554D.103(14), such as digital signature technology. It is the licensee’s responsibility to ensure, prior to affixing an electronic signature to a landscape architecture document, that security procedures are adequate to (1) verify that the signature is that of a specific person and (2) detect any changes that may be made or attempted after the signature of the specific person is affixed. The seal implies responsibility for the entire technical submission unless the area of responsibility is clearly identified in the information accompanying the seal.

f. It will be the responsibility of the professional landscape architect who signed the original submission to forward copies of all changes and amendments to the technical submission, which shall become a part of the official copy of the technical submission, to the public official charged with the enforcement of the state, county or municipal building code.

g. A professional landscape architect is responsible for the custody and proper use of the seal. Improper use of the seal shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

h. The seal appearing on any technical submission will be prima facie evidence that said technical submission was prepared by or under the responsible control of the individual named on that seal.

4.1(8) Communications. A professional landscape architect will, when requested, respond to communications from the board within 30 days of the mailing of such communication by certified mail. Failure to respond to such communication may be grounds for disciplinary action against the professional landscape architect.

[ARC 9157C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—4.2(544B,17A) Receipt of complaints. The board will receive and review all complaints that the board reasonably believes indicate that a licensee may have committed an act that is cause for disciplinary action.

4.2(1) *Complaints.* Any person may file a complaint with the board charging that a licensee may have committed an act that is in violation of applicable law or rules. The complaint will be written and signed by the complainant and accompanied with substantial evidence indicating when, where, and how the licensee committed the violation. All complaints filed with the board will be privileged and held confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(4) by all board members, peer review committee members and staff. A person filing a complaint will receive immunities in accordance with Iowa Code section 272C.8.

4.2(2) *Board-instigated complaints.* Upon presentation of evidence by a board member, the board's staff, or other state agency, the board may determine that a complaint should be opened and an investigation begun to determine if a licensee may have committed an act that is in violation of applicable law or rules.

[ARC 9157C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—4.3(544B,17A) Peer review committee. At any point during the complaint procedure or the investigatory procedure and prior to determining whether probable cause exists that a violation has occurred, the board may appoint a peer review committee to assist the board in reaching its decision by conducting an investigation(s) of the complaint.

4.3(1) *Makeup of the peer review committee.* The committee will consist of one or more professional landscape architects who are selected for their knowledge and experience in the particular aspect of landscape architecture involved in the complaint. The following are ineligible for membership:

- a. Members of the board.
- b. Close relatives of the alleged violator(s) or complainant.
- c. Individuals employed by the same firm or governmental unit as the alleged violator or complainant.

4.3(2) *Authority.* The committee's investigation will be limited to interviewing of complainants, the alleged violator, individuals with knowledge of the alleged violation, and individuals with knowledge of the alleged violator's reputation in the community. The committee may not hire legal counsel, investigators, secretarial help or any other assistants without written authorization from the board.

4.3(3) *Compensation.* Committee members may receive per diem compensation equal to that received by board members for performing board duties. Committee members may be paid reasonable and necessary expenses that are incurred for travel, meals and lodging while performing committee duties within a budget limitation established by the board.

[ARC 9157C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—4.4(544B,272C) Investigation report of complaints.

4.4(1) *Board consideration of report to determine further action.* Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator(s) will prepare for the board's consideration a report containing the position or defense of the licensee so the board may determine what further action is necessary. The board may:

- a. Order that the matter be further investigated.
- b. Allow the licensee who is the subject of the complaint an opportunity to appear before the designated discipline committee for an informal discussion regarding the circumstances of the alleged violation.
- c. Determine there is no probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred and close the case.
- d. Determine there is probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred.

4.4(2) *Informal discussion.*

a. An informal discussion is intended to provide a licensee an opportunity to share the licensee's account of a complaint in an informal setting before the board determines whether probable cause exists to initiate a disciplinary proceeding. A licensee is not required to attend an informal discussion. Because disciplinary investigations are confidential, the licensee cannot bring other persons to an informal discussion, but licensees may be represented by legal counsel.

b. Unless disqualification is waived by the licensee, board members or staff who personally investigate a disciplinary complaint are disqualified from making decisions or assisting the decision makers at a later formal hearing. Because board members generally rely upon investigators, peer review committees, or expert consultants to conduct investigations, the issue rarely arises. An informal discussion,

however, is a form of investigation because it is conducted in a question-and-answer format. In order to preserve the ability of all board members to participate in board decision making and to receive the advice of staff, a licensee who desires to attend an informal discussion must therefore waive the right to seek disqualification of a board member or staff based solely on the board member's or staff's participation in an informal discussion. A licensee would not waive the right to seek disqualification on any other ground. By electing to attend an informal discussion, a licensee accordingly agrees that participating board members or staff are not disqualified from acting as a presiding officer in a later contested case proceeding or from advising the decision maker.

c. Because an informal discussion constitutes a part of the board's investigation of a pending disciplinary case, the facts discussed at the informal discussion may be considered by the board in the event the matter proceeds to a contested case hearing and those facts are independently introduced into evidence.

[ARC 9157C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

193D—4.5(544B,272C) Dispensation. The board will make findings of fact and conclusions of law and may take one or more of the following actions:

1. Dismiss the charges.
2. Revoke the professional landscape architect's license.
3. Suspend the professional landscape architect's license as authorized by law.
4. Impose civil penalties, the amount of which will be set at the discretion of the board but will not exceed \$1,000. Civil penalties may be imposed for any of the disciplinary violations of Iowa Code sections 544B.15, 272C.9(2), 272C.9(3), and 272C.10 and these rules or for repeated offenses.
5. Impose a period of probation, either with or without conditions.
6. Require reexamination, using one or more parts of the examination given to professional landscape architectural licensee candidates.
7. Require additional professional education, reeducation, or continuing education.
8. Issue a citation or warning.
9. Issue a consent order.
10. Accept voluntary surrender of license. Voluntary surrender of a license is considered a disciplinary action.

[ARC 9157C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25]

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CHAPTER 5
PUBLIC RECORDS AND FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICES
Rescinded IAB 8/20/03, effective 9/24/03

CHAPTER 6
SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES
Rescinded IAB 8/20/03, effective 9/24/03

CHAPTER 7
WAIVERS OR VARIANCES FROM RULES
Rescinded IAB 8/20/03, effective 9/24/03

CHAPTER 8
PETITION FOR RULE MAKING AND FOR DECLARATORY ORDERS
Rescinded IAB 8/20/03, effective 9/24/03