

Rubric Core Competencies

Core Competencies - Area Of Review

1. Landscape Design And Design Process - 80% or 28 points to pass

- Landscape Design and Design Process - 35%
- Design Graphics - 20%
- Horticulture and Plant Knowledge - 20%
- Environmental Awareness and Sustainability - 15%
- Landscape Construction - 10%

	Max Score	Low		Medium		High
General	35 Points	Lacks understanding and competency in the use of design elements and art principles in a landscape design. Lacks a demonstrative application of design process.		Meets a balanced representation of the process and examples of elements utilized in the design.		Presents a clear understanding, and demonstrates competency in landscape design. Consistently demonstrates an understanding of landscape design and design process and incorporates the elements and principles into an overall design.
Design Evaluation <i>Evaluation of the overall design solution being presented</i>	10	Design does not meet the goals and needs of the client as outlined within the Design Intent Statement or offers no other option for arriving at the solution		Some goals and program requirements are met. Design solutions are met with basic and functional solutions	Design offers innovative, creative, and/or functional solutions	The design solution meets or excels at satisfying the needs of the client. The solutions are measurable and consistently meets the program requirements listed in the Design Intent document
Hardscape Design, Site Development <i>Hardscape includes any element that is not plant design, such as structures, paving, paths, patios, decks, water features, recreational equipment, etc.</i>	10	Lacks representation of any hardscape elements enough to evaluate in this process		Design utilizes some design elements, art principles and style and/or theme within the hardscape design		Consistent demonstration of design elements and art principles utilized within the hardscape design. The design shows complex, functional and multiple use of hardscape design elements within the design. Design addresses functional hardscape design elements such as circulation, drainage, and is spatially appropriate for the site.
Art Principles <i>Pattern, rhythm, proportion, balance, unity, order, scale, harmony, emphasis/focal point/contrast. Reference*Booth and Hiss</i>	5	Lack example(s) of art principles enough to evaluate in this process	Art principles are shown sparingly or without connection within the overall design	At least one or two principles are represented in the design. A basic understanding is demonstrated with the design	Several examples are represented in the design.	Consistent demonstration of art principles are clearly utilized in the design. The design shows complex and multiple use of art principles within the design. Demonstration of art principles are clearly utilized in the design
Design Elements <i>Line, form, shape, color, value, texture, scale. Reference: Booth and Hiss</i>	5	Lacks example(s) of design elements enough to evaluate in this process.	Minimal design elements are shown or shown without connection within the overall design.	Basic design elements are represented in the design. A basic understanding is demonstrated within the design.	Several examples of design elements are represented in the design.	Consistent demonstration of design elements are clearly utilized in the design. The design shows complex and multiple use of design elements within the design
Design Style and/or Theme <i>Traditional, modern, contemporary, regionalism, contextual appropriateness, etc. Theme: Cottage, edible, stormwater management/waterwise, wildlife/pet friendly, etc. Note: Design Style and/or Theme should also be addressed in the Design Intent Statement</i>	5	Lacks consistent or definable design style or theme enough to evaluate in this process	There is a modest attempt to demonstrate and adhere to a design style and/or theme	A basic demonstration of design style and/or theme is represented		Design style and/or theme is consistent and strongly represented throughout the design project and is thoroughly represented at all levels

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2. Design Graphics - 80% or 16 points to pass

	Max Score	Low		Medium		High
General <i>Both hand-drafted drawings and/or computer aided drawings are allowed. The following critiques exist regardless of the drawing technique used.</i>	20 Points	Lacks understanding and competency in the use of design graphics in a landscape design.		Drawings are representational of Final Presentation Drawing(s) without blemishes or mistakes and are clean and legible. Drawing(s) demonstrates ability to convey design intent thoroughly in a graphic drawing and within forms of written communication examples		The designer produces graphic and written examples of design solutions that thoroughly convey design intent, consistent graphic representation and clear, concise written information. Drawings are representational of bid and/or construction drawings.
Hardscape symbol representation <i>Structures, doors, windows, grade changes, 'existing' elements, etc.</i>	5	Hardscape symbols and/or hatching are not aligned with industry standards.		Areas of hardscape, or elements representing hardscape are easy and clear to understand. Patterns are represented according to industry standards		Hardscape and hardscape elements are consistently depicted and shown to enhance the drawing layout and convey the design. The elements are shown utilizing pattern, shadows, texture and with clarity to convey the design intent to the contractor/builder
Lines <i>Line weights, line types, line hierarchy</i>	5	Graphics are not aligned with industry graphic standards	The drawing is 'flat' and lacking depth and 'punch' in the graphics	The drawing adequately conveys proper use of line weights. Correct line types are used for different elements. Line hierarchy is utilized to tell the story graphically.	Uses line weight and line hierarchy effectively to professionally represent the design, professional representation is consistent, clean and enhances the design solution. Line quality is crisp, drafted and cleanly represented	The drawing represents clear and thorough use of line weights to represent all aspects of the design. Consistent use of line types and line hierarchy are clearly demonstrated to convey all aspects of the design, both soft- and hardscape materials. The drawing layout is professional, organized, and balanced on the sheet.
Notes, labels and text <i>1/8" text, 10 pt size, minimum size</i> <i>Include on each sheet: Sheet Layout, North Arrow, Scale & Graphic Scale, Title Block, Project Site Address</i>	5	Lacks essential notes and labels enough to evaluate in this process	Spelling mistakes, indication of incorrect plant name spelling, lack of some obvious notes	Utilizes industry standard text layout and organization on the page. Drawings are representational of Final Presentation Drawings without blemishes or mistakes and are clean and legible. Drawings demonstrate ability to convey design intent thoroughly in a graphic drawing and within forms of written communication examples. Shows some slope change information: rise and run calculations, directional arrows for stair runs, or slopes, misses other areas.		Consistent use of text and note sizes, eloquent sheet layout, clear and legible dissemination of information, no spelling mistakes, shows dimensions and extensive notes for clarification and communication of the design. The sheet layout is consistent, legible and organized. The designer produces graphic and written examples of design solutions that thoroughly convey design intent, consistent graphic representation and clear, concise written information. Clearly and thoroughly explains and notes any grade changes including slopes, steps, ramps, etc. direction of slope, and describes solutions to changes in grade within the design solution. Drawings are representational of bid and/or construction drawings.
Plant symbol representation <i>Tree, shrub, perennial, ground cover, existing/new, etc.</i>	5	Plant symbol use is not aligned with industry standards.		Graphic plant symbols represent clear design intent and indicate differences between deciduous, evergreen, and ground cover plants		Graphic plant symbols are depicted correctly and with enhancements such as patterning, shadows and clarity when combined with text or numbers. The drawing is legible and 'clean' in representation

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3. Horticulture and Plant Knowledge - 80% or 16 points to pass

	Max Score	Low		Medium		High
General	20 Points	Lacks essential knowledge of cultural or environmental conditions for plant material and the ability to convey knowledge and design intent to a contractor		Demonstrates ability to convey design intent thoroughly within the plant design, combinations, attention to cultural and environmental conditions, and allowable space		The designer shows professional proficiency and competency with planting plan design, cultural and environmental plant requirements, seasonal interest/awareness and demonstrates effective plant combinations
Planting Design and Composition <i>Knowledge of plants, and their appropriate and consistent use for the site and design style Plant composition derived from plant form, texture, color, shape, and scent</i>	8	Lacks adequate plant design or plan layout enough to evaluate in this process.	Plants are minimally used in the design with little to no consideration to arrangements, compositions, layering, combinations etc.	Plants are used in a basic way, to cover ground, to fill space and provide interest. Focal points and interesting plant combinations are used to enhance the design		Planting design is an effective, functional, and/or aesthetic focus of the design and the designer effectively demonstrates functional, innovative and aesthetic use of plants and plant combinations. Designer demonstrates thoughtful, appropriate plant placement and utilizes plant material in a way that enhances the overall design concept
Appropriate Planting Material <i>Utilize plant material relative to site conditions, hardiness zones, soil, water resources/needs, and sun/shade exposure of plant material and design. Native, climate, local.</i>	4	Lacks examples of appropriate use of plant material		Appropriate plant use is apparent, but not consistent throughout the project		Plant material is used appropriately with regards to all the site conditions and the requirements of the design throughout the design. Designer demonstrates use of the plants in a way that enhances the overall design concept.
Aesthetic/Sensory Considerations <i>Multi-season interest, color, texture, fragrance, emphasis, sequence</i>	2	Lacks example(s) of aesthetic and/or sensory consideration enough to evaluate in this process				The designer utilizes aesthetic and / or sensory considerations with plant material to create and enhance the overall landscape design concept
Ecological Functions <i>Planting for shade, rain capture, increase habitat, improve soil, create healthy micro-climate, considers plant maintenance issues</i>	2	Lacks example(s) of ecological function considerations enough to evaluate in this process		Care and consideration is given to the Ecological Functions of plant material within the design		The designer utilizes innovative planting design to demonstrate an understanding of the importance of Ecological Functions within the overall design concept
Plant Combinations <i>Utilization of techniques used to create appropriate and pleasing plant designs: Layering, massing, repetition, balance, variety, emphasis, and scale</i>	2	Lacks examples of plant design exhibiting layering, massing, repetition, balance, variety, emphasis, and scale		Demonstrates utilization of design techniques to create a pleasing plant design		The designer shows professional proficiency and competency in the use of plant combinations that enhance the overall design concept.
Various Design Elements <i>Edible gardens, permaculture techniques, urban agriculture or husbandry techniques, habitat and wildlife considerations</i>	2	Design lacks any of the various design elements		Design proficiently demonstrates one of the Various Design Elements		Design proficiently demonstrates two or more of the Various Design Elements

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4. Environmental Awareness and Sustainability - 80% or 12 points to pass

	Max Score	Low		Medium		High
General	15 Points	Limited to no examples of environmental awareness or sustainable design elements within the design		Considers stormwater management systems, considers drainage of the site, sustainable/sustainability design elements are present		Full integration of sustainable features within the design. Shows a thorough and in depth understanding of environmental awareness and integrates sustainability into the overall design.
Stormwater Management Techniques <i>Infiltration and stormwater runoff techniques, rain water harvesting, stormwater drainage solutions, minimizing off-site pollution, LID methods</i>	4	Lacks example(s) enough to evaluate in this process		Care and consideration is demonstrated with the treatment of stormwater within the landscape. One or two techniques are demonstrated indicating a conceptual understanding of drainage and grades and design to handle stormwater runoff.		A deep understanding of stormwater management techniques is shown within the design. Stormwater management techniques are the focal point and executed with ingenuity, innovation and reviewed with standard design elements and art principles underlying. The designer integrates consistent examples of stormwater management techniques through the whole design.
Water Efficiency <i>“Waterwise” techniques and solutions, efficient use of water relative to planting design, irrigation zoning, efficient irrigation solutions, mulching, grading and/or runoff to plant beds and root zones.</i>	4	Lacks example(s) of water efficiency and/or stormwater management enough to evaluate in this process	Little to no consideration is given to the needs of water efficiency within the landscape design	Care and consideration is given to water efficiency within the design		Consistent, innovative and functional design ideas are represented as it relates to water efficiency and/or stormwater management techniques
Conserving Energy and Material Resources <i>Recycle/reuse hardscape materials, utilize sustainable and/or local materials, conserve energy, utilize sustainable irrigation solutions, and minimization of inputs chemical or otherwise</i>	3	Lacks example(s) enough to evaluate in this process		Care and consideration is demonstrated with the treatment of material resources within the landscape. One or two techniques are demonstrated indicating a conceptual understanding of reuse/recycle/renew materials, and energy use		Design demonstrates a deep effort to reduce, recycle and reuse materials onsite, including demo materials. Minimizes energy use (dark sky and lo-E fixtures), minimizes water use through efficient irrigation systems and/or the minimization of chemicals. The designer integrates consistent examples of material conservation through the whole design.
Landscape Protection <i>Fire prevention, open space/burned area remediation/restoration, erosion control and minimization of stormwater runoff, drought, conserving vegetation with significant biodiversity value/design</i>	3	Lacks example(s) enough to evaluate in this process		Applies current industry standards* to design spaces in need of prevention, remediation, and/or restoration in regards to fire, drought and other environmental conditions		A deep understanding of landscape protection techniques are shown through a variety of examples within the whole design.
Various Design Elements <i>Appropriate utilization of any of the following sustainability features such as rain gardens, bio-swales, bioretention cells, bio-infiltration cells, roof gardens/green roofs, and/or green walls</i>	1	Lack example(s) of design elements enough to evaluate in this process		Basic design elements are represented in the design but with a strong filter towards a sustainability solution. A basic understanding of the important use of design elements is demonstrated within the design		Professional demonstration of common design elements and art principles are utilized in the overall design but with a clear, thorough nod to sustainability

Rubric Core Competencies

5. Landscape Construction - 80% or 8 points to pass

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- Landscape Design and Design Process - 35%
- Design Graphics - 20%
- Horticulture and Plant Knowledge - 20%
- Environmental Awareness and Sustainability - 15%
- Landscape Construction - 10%

	Max Score	Low	Medium	High
General	10 Points	Lacks understanding and competency in the use of design elements and art principles in a landscape design. Lacks a demonstrative application of design process.	Meets a balanced representation of the process and examples of elements utilized in the design.	Presents a clear understanding, and demonstrates competency, in landscape design. Consistently demonstrates an understanding of landscape design and design process and incorporates the elements and principles into an overall design.
Constructability	3	Lacks examples of constructability of materials enough to evaluate in this process	Demonstrates an understanding of proper, appropriate and/or correct constructability of materials in a landscape environment	Demonstrates extensive understanding of proper, appropriate and/or correct constructability with a variety or singular material within the landscape design. Details represent understanding.
Material Awareness <i>Concrete, wood, stone, metal, plastic and ground plane treatment, solid or loose, manmade or natural. Finishes and terminology</i>	2	Lack adequate examples of materials, outside of plants, within the design enough to evaluation within this process.	Shows basic examples of a variety of materials used appropriately within the design	Demonstrates consistent, creative, innovative, detailed or specialized use of a variety or singular use of materials within the design
Built Elements <i>Decks, fences, arbors, gates, sheds, patios, roof decks, etc</i>	1	Limited to no examples of solutions relative to structures or built elements enough to evaluate in this process	Demonstrates functional, appropriate integration of structures and/or built elements within the design. Designer integrates built elements to complement the overall design	Demonstrates a professional level integration of structures and built elements that consistently show understanding of space, volume, clearances, attention to building code requirements (local, national etc.) , and placement of elements within the overall plan.
Drainage Solutions	1	Lacks basic understanding of drainage solutions or has limited examples of handling drainage, enough to evaluate in this process	Demonstrates basic understanding of drainage requirements and generally handling drainage of the site	Designer demonstrates professional level ability to effectively, creatively and thoroughly deal with issues around drainage of a site
Grade Change Elements <i>Steps, retaining walls, walkways, ramps, etc.</i>	1	Limited to no examples of solutions relative to grade changes or elements that deal with change in grade on a site	Demonstrates appropriate integration of grading elements (steps, retaining walls, walkways etc.) within the design	Demonstrates a professional level use of grading elements within the design. Fully incorporates grading elements that provide functional and/or aesthetically pleasing design solutions when dealing with grading
Grading and Slope Solutions	1	Lacks example(s) enough to evaluate in this process	Demonstrates basic understanding of grading and slope calculations and deals with same with some attention to the topic	Demonstrates professional ability to deal with grading issues and slope calculations. Designer consistently shows creative solutions to grading challenges. Project shows considerable examples of changes in grade and a consistent understanding of slope issues
Outdoor Amenities <i>Outdoor kitchens, fire features, water features, furniture, etc.</i>	1	Limited to no examples of solutions relative to outdoor amenities enough to evaluate in this process	Demonstrates functional, appropriate integration of outdoor amenities within the design. Designer integrates amenities to complement the overall design, and satisfy client program requirements as outlined in the Design Intent Statement. Indicates understanding of scale and spacial layout when placing furniture in a space. Demonstrates furniture program requirements are being satisfied, demonstrates the spaces are big enough/small enough to handle the furniture and/or accommodation for groups.	Integrates and utilizes outdoor amenities to enhance, complement, and/or create a more complex design solution. Utilizes professional design criteria when utilizing these elements. Furniture, built in or moveable and other elements within a space are clearly defined within the design solution. Functional and innovative use of spacial requirements are met within the design solution.