

Examination Information

General Information

About the L.A.R.E.

The L.A.R.E. is a four-part fully computerized examination designed to determine whether applicants for landscape architectural licensure possess sufficient knowledge, skills and abilities to provide services without endangering the health, safety and welfare of the public. The L.A.R.E. is prepared and scored by CLARB in accordance with all current standards for fairness and quality of licensure exams.

The L.A.R.E. is made up of the following sections:

Section 1: Project and Construction Management

Section 2: Inventory and Analysis

Section 3: Design

Section 4: Grading, Drainage and Construction Documentation

Successful completion of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.) is required for licensure as a landscape architect in the 49 states, the territory of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, and three Canadian provinces (Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. Manitoba also requires some levels of the L.A.R.E.), that regulate the profession of landscape architecture.

The L.A.R.E. is exactly the same in every jurisdiction. The same exam is administered on the same days and under the same conditions and all exams are uniformly graded by CLARB. Each section receives a pass or fail score independently from the other sections. All sections must be passed in order to be granted licensure with Seal in Ontario.

Registering for L.A.R.E.s

The L.A.R.E. is administered across the United States and Canada on dates established by CLARB. All OALA members are approved to write the L.A.R.E.s. Candidates should indicate ONTARIO or OALA as your jurisdiction on CLARB records and Exam registration forms.

If you are registering for your CLARB record and are not yet a Full Member of the OALA (i.e you are an Associate or Student member), you would **choose 'Emerging Professional'** when you click your status. (Full Members who register for an exam would click 'Licensed Professional'.)

For all sections of the L.A.R.E., CLARB establishes the deadlines for completion of the online application. Candidates may check these deadlines on the [CLARB](#) website.

Exam candidates register for the exams by visiting the [CLARB website](#). CLARB will send you an email with instructions about how to select your test centre and schedule your exam appointment.

Structure of the L.A.R.E.

The content of the L.A.R.E. is based on the results of a scientific "job analysis" survey conducted every five to seven years. The most recent survey was administered in early 2016 in which more than 5548 practicing landscape architects from the United States and Canada participated. The survey results were analyzed by a group of subject matter experts comprised of licensed landscape architects representing diversity (areas of practice, geographic) of the profession. 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 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 and thus form the basis of the L.A.R.E. Understanding the examination specifications.

[To review the results of the 2016 Task Analysis click here.](#)

Exam Content

For additional information about the exam including requirements, the registration process and the scoring process, please visit the [Take the Exam' Section of the CLARB Website](#) or contact CLARB.

The LARE Orientation Guide provides full details on the Exam.

[Please follow the link the LARE Orientation Guide for the full details.](#)

Section 1 - Project and Construction Management

- 85 scored items & 15 [pretest](#) items consisting of multiple-choice and multiple-response questions;
- 3 hours seat time, 2 ½ hours for exam
 - Pre-Project Management: 10%
 - Project Management: 30%
 - Bidding: 20%
 - Construction: 30%
 - Maintenance: 10%

Section 2 – Inventory and Analysis

- 70 scored items & 10 [pretest](#) items consisting of multiple-choice and multiple-response questions;
- 2 ½ hours seat time, 2 hours for the exam
 - Site Inventory: 35%
 - Physical Analysis: 40%
 - Contextual Analysis: 25%

Section 3 – Design

- 85 scored items & 15 [pretest](#) items consisting of advanced item types, multiple-choice and multiple-response questions;
- 4 hours seat time, 3 ½ hours for the exam
 - Stakeholder Process: 9%
 - Master Planning: 45%
 - Site Design: 46%

Section 4 – Grading, Drainage and Construction Documentation

- 105 scored items & 15 [pretest](#) items consisting of advanced item types, multiple-choice and multiple-response questions;
- 4 ½ hours seat time, 4 hours for the exam
 - Site Preparation Plans: 20%
 - General Plans and Details: 40%
 - Specialty Plans: 25% Specifications: 15%

L.A.R.E. Study Reference List

The updated Reference List is applicable as of the April 2017 administration of the L.A.R.E. Student versions of several of the resources are now included to enhance access to these materials and is a direct response to candidate requests.

The OALA library has purchased numerous copies of each of the items on the list. Please visit the OALA library or contact our coordinator to see if the item you are looking for is available: coordinator@oala.ca

Section 1 — Project and Construction Management

- *Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture* / Rogers
- *Construction Contracts, 3rd Edition* / Hinze
- *Project Management for Design Professionals* / Ramroth
- *Sustainability and Design Ethics* / Russ

Section 2 — Inventory and Analysis

- *Design with Nature* / McHarg
- *Site Analysis: A Contextual Approach to Sustainable Land Planning and Site Design* / LaGro
- *Site Planning and Design Handbook, 2nd Edition* / Russ
- *The Living Landscape - An Ecological Approach to Landscape Planning* / Steiner

Section 3 — Design

- *Landscape Architectural Graphic Standards - Student Version* / Hopper
- *Time-Saver Standards for Landscape Architects, 2nd Edition* / Harris and Dines
- *Sustainable Sites Handbook* / Calkins
- *Planning and Urban Design Standards - Student Version* / Steiner and Butler
- *Site Planning and Design Handbook, 2nd Edition* / Russ

Section 4 — Grading, Drainage and Construction Documentation

- *Landscape Architectural Graphic Standards - Student Version* / Hopper
- *Site Engineering for Landscape Architects, 6th Edition* / Strom, Nathan and Woland
- *Sustainable Sites Handbook* / Calkins
- *Time-Saver Standards for Landscape Architects, 2nd Edition* / Harris and Dines
- *Landscape Architect's Portable Handbook* / Dines and Brown

The list is also available from CLARB using the link: <http://www.clarb.org/take-the-exam/prepare-for-the-exam/recommended-reading>

The reference material list has been prepared by the CLARB Examination Committee. While the Committee believes that mastery of the topics dealt with in the volumes on this list will be of assistance in preparing for the L.A.R.E., no representation is made that mastery of the topics dealt with by these volumes will ensure a passing grade on the examination, and no representation is made that the examination questions will be limited in scope to topics dealt with by the volumes contained on this list.

Candidates are not expected to review all of the books on this list, as subject areas may be covered by several references. CLARB in no way guarantees that the contents of these references are accurate.