LDA TOWN HALL – APPLICATION PROCESS Q&A

Q) What is the Admissions Process?

A) It is the process in which students are admitted into the LDA Major. The most important factor for students looking to join the LDA Major is their Major GPA (Major in LDA classes), with the cutoff usually being around a 3.5 GPA.

Q) What if I'm a Transfer Student but I have equivalencies? How does that work with my GPA being calculated?

A) We only consider classes taken at UC Davis. So if you have equivalencies for some LDA classes, the GPA won't be calculated for your application, but it does give you work samples to help supplement your application. That's where the work samples are so important, they can help demonstrate that you have that skillset that is part of the courses that you took elsewhere.

Q) If you don't make the cutoff for the GPA, what happens next? Are we not allowed to continue taking the courses?

A) If you're near the cutoff for the GPA, that's where we start to dive into the Personal Statement and Work Samples that you provide in your application. If you had a personal hardship which affected your grade in one of your classes, you can write about that so we understand why your GPA might not be as high as it could have been. Basically, you can use your personal statement and work samples to make up for the grade you might have gotten in one of your LDA classes.

Q) Do we have access, as students, to a computer with photoshop on it?

A) The computers in Hunt 168 and 178 are fully loaded with Adobe creative suite, but it is not necessary to use those programs for your application. You can just upload a picture taken with your smartphone camera and that is perfect. There is a text box connected with the image so you can describe the work sample that you upload.

Q) Will we need to print these work samples out?

A) No, everything is digital, so you can take a picture of your model and upload it into the application form.

Q) What if I don't make it in?

A) In the unlikely chance that you don't make it in, there are several options. We create a waitlist that is based off of the rankings, because sometimes after Spring Quarter, students change their mind and don't continue in the LDA program. Up until Spring Quarter of Sophomore year, we allow students off the waitlist into LDA. The other thing is that you can reapply again next year. It does put your graduation back by a year however. The other option is to pursue a different major, which there are many that are related to LDA. Sustainable Environmental Design (SED), Community and Regional Development (CRD), and Design (DES) are all similar majors that you can switch into if you don't make it into LDA, with SED being the most similar. You can go on to get your Master's in Landscape Architecture, so it is not the end of the world if you do not make it into LDA for you to become a Landscape Architect.

Q) For work samples, do we include things from High School or just things from LDA Classes?
A) It is highly recommended to submit work samples that are related to the course work, as that is what it's really meant for. They are there to compensate if a student didn't do well in a class. If you have a 4.0 in your LDA classes, then it doesn't really matter for you.

Q) What if your work samples are really strong, but your GPA is not as strong.
A) That's a perfect example of where your personal statement comes in. It can be used to describe why you had challenges in the class and then those work samples can be used to show that you do have a strong grasp on the skills from the class, even if the grade might not show that.

Q) What if you don't think you have a good chance of getting in?
A) You are encouraged to apply anyways, if you are interested. If you don't get in, you can continue taking other LDA courses, and apply again, but it would likely delay your graduand keep you at the University for a 5th year.

Q) For the work samples, could I submit my term paper from LDA 2 (for example)?
A) You can do that! However, I would recommend saving it as a PDF to upload it and only include parts of it to really show which skill you are trying to highlight.

Q) How do you check your Major GPA?
A) There are detailed steps on the Application, but you can do so on OASIS. You select the tab that says "GPA Charts and Tools", then select "GPA Per Subject", and sort through to

find your LDA courses. If you have questions about that, please reach out the advising office.

Q) How long will the application be open and when will it open?
A) It will be open from February 1 until the end of the month, so a total of 28 days.

Q) Am I able to upload a portfolio project that I did?
A) Yes, but it might be best to only upload specific pages of that project, to highlight which skillset you'd like to promote to us.

Q) The application will close before we have these Quarter's LDA classes, how do we calculate that in our GPA?
A) We won't calculate the GPA until the end of winter quarter. We just need your intent to apply by February 28. We will run the grades one more time to double check after winter grades are posted. It does push things back to Spring Break, but you will know shortly after if you're accepted. Then you will be able to register for LDA 60 in Spring Quarter.

Q) Is LDA 23 required for the major? What about LDA 10?
A) LDA 23 is required for the major, but LDA 10 is not. LDA 10 will not count towards your Major GPA in your application, but LDA 23 will.

Q) What are the required classes needed to apply for the LDA Major?
A) LDA 1, 2, 21, 30, and 70. Some folks might have taken 3 already if they were a freshman, but if you haven't taken it yet, it is okay. But once you've taken the classes, they are part of your LDA GPA.

Q) Are Applications for SED Majors and Pre-LDA Majors the same?
A) Yes, your current major does not affect the rankings.

Q) Will the GPA that we get at the end of Winter Quarter, after the application is closed, still count?
A) Yes, we will look at the GPA at the end of Winter Quarter, and we'll also calculate it at the end of Spring Quarter. If your GPA falls below 3.0, we might have you removed to make room for someone on the waitlist.

Q) Will we be emailed the application?

    A) Yes, the email will go out before the end of this month in preparation for February 1st. It will have everything else detailed on it as well, and it will also be posted on the website.

Q) Is there a Master's Program for Landscape Architecture?

    A) No, not at UC Davis. But there is a Master's Program for Community Development and in Geography as well. Within that, there is a Graduate Academic Certificate in Landscape Architecture, which means your emphasis will be there, with your Degree in Community Development.

Q) What if I haven't taken LDA 2, 70, or 3?

    A) You will need to wait until the Winter of 2024 (the next Winter Quarter) to apply, unless you have equivalencies from a different institution for those courses. If you have an equivalent class for LDA 2 and/or LDA 70, then you can apply, and LDA 3 can be taken in Spring Quarter after you've applied.