

The Eco-Landscape Mastery School – Certificate Track

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CERTIFIED ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING PROFESSIONAL? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!

The Eco-Landscape Mastery Course offers a path to certification that ensures you meet rigorous standards in completing the course curriculum. Grow your experience and legitimacy by getting certified. Our rigorous certification track is available for all students who sign up for the ELM School. It is an optional program for folks who are ready to fully jump into their new career as Ecological Landscape Professionals.

We have identified 23 critical milestones to guarantee that your foundation in ecological landscaping exceeds client expectations. To apply for the certificate you will need to complete the following:

1. Step up a [Dropbox](#) account;
2. Review the milestones you'll need to complete under each module; they are also included below;
3. Take pictures, video, write reports, etc., to document the completion of those required milestones;
4. Upload your documentation to your Dropbox account;
5. When you are finished with all 23 milestones and you have assembled documentation, send your Dropbox link to outreach@permacultureskillscenter.org for review;
6. While under review, we will determine if you have met the necessary requirements to complete the certificate in Ecological Landscaping. If there are any discrepancies, we will notify you. Expect to hear from us between 2-3 weeks after submitting your certification materials.

ELM School Certificate Track Milestones

*Please note that the milestones below are the steps that **require documentation** to receive the certificate. There are additional milestones for each module that will need to be completed as well that don't require documentation.

MODULE	MILESTONES
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a name and logo • File a Fictitious Business Name Statement • Open a bank account
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a portfolio project both printed and digital • Create a demonstration project • Start to plan your social engagement plan/marketing plan • Write a Statement of Purpose for your business. A one- to two-paragraph statement about who your business is and what you value
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print and prepare a Land Detective kit with your logo (Species Journal, Site Assessment Checklist, Client Intake Form, Clipboard, Google Images, etc.)
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put together a template for a consult report: Use our consult report template, add your logo, and letterhead • Complete 5 consultations including a quick synopsis of the consult
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare your own, full on, design proposal template (feel free to use the swipe the copy in the downloads to get started) • Complete 3 design concepts for 3 projects (at any scale)
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a water management plan for a project (can be your demonstration project) • Incorporate a drainage plan with water harvesting plan

8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan an irrigation system for a project (can be your demonstration project). Include: locating the timer, manifolds, pipe runs, and irrigation zones
9	N/A
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Fertility Plan for a project (can be demonstration project or client's project)
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a planting plan for a project
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a list of wildlife superstars for your area that you want to attract to your landscapes. Include birds, reptiles, insects, amphibians, and mammals
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a pathway and outdoor destination system for a project. Include pathway and outdoor room material choices
14	N/A
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a project management plan for your company and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A project scheduling format ○ A communication plan for clients and workers ○ A pricing list for materials and equipment you think you will use • Have a change order template ready • Have a project contract template prepared
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish one install (you have installed or you've managed subcontractors in installation)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Do I have to pay extra tuition to join the certification track?

No, you can take the certification track at no extra cost.

2. How long does it take? Is there a time limit?

The certification track is going to be different for every student. At the ELM School, we encourage all students to design businesses that fit their own context and that of their community and life goals. This means some folks will have a simpler track than others. There is no time limit to when you can complete the certification track. As long as you turn in proof of completion of all required milestones you can earn your certificate. Our estimated times for completion are a minimum of 6 months for advanced students to complete the certification process. Most certificate track participants will probably need up to one year or more to fully complete the program.

3. What does the certificate mean?

By completing the certificate track you will receive a certificate you can frame and place in your office or wherever is appropriate to you. You can call yourself a "Certified Ecological Landscaping Professional." This will give clients and partners a sense of the commitment you have made to be the best in your field. As part of our certified alumni (and our commitment to you), we will promote you throughout our networks, celebrate your achievements, place you and your business on our website, and place you into our referral program. The most important part of the certification process however is what you accomplish by completing the 23 milestones. This is a focused and powerful way to ensure participants complete all the necessary steps and gain the important experience to truly have the foundation for a thriving business and career.