

Low Impact Development (PENDING)



Description:

It is important to protect natural resources such as water, native plants, trees, grasses and wildlife during the development of land for housing, business, industrial, pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular use. It is equally important to develop land in a manner that prevents erosion, landslides, and the pollution of waterways from run-off and adheres to federal, state, and local codes. Low Impact Development (LID) is of growing interest to communities, municipalities, surveyors, insurance companies, civil engineers, finance companies, environmental engineers, landscape architects, surveyors, realtors, land developers, building contractors, land managers, environmental regulatory agencies, and conservation organizations.

The Low Impact Development Program of Study (POS) is designed to prepare students interested in sustainable development and natural resource management with the technical skills to serve as specialists in the analysis of land and in the preparation of LID recommendations. Graduates will be prepared for a growing number of careers in the public and private sector that require an understanding of environmental biology, geospatial technology, drafting, and the principles and practices of LID. The POS requires a multidisciplinary core of coursework including the study of land planning software programs, soils, site analysis, hydrology, geospatial technology, and environmental regulations. Students wishing to pursue the LID POS should have an interest in the outdoors, technology, planning, natural resource conservation, and in working with the public and professionals from many fields.

Students successfully completing the LID POS will be able to develop and utilize plans for site development, storm and gray water treatment, and landscape restoration projects. Graduates will be able to successfully serve as liaisons between landscape architects and engineers and the construction companies implementing designs. Graduates will also be well versed in local and regional permitting issues and environmental concerns present and future. The college will also pursue transfer agreements for this program for interested students to continue their LID studies at 4-year universities.