FNGLA Certified Landscape Designer (FCLD) Exam

The FCLD certification process consists of three sections:
- FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional (FCHP) Exam
- Plan Submittal
- Written Exam that consists of the following four sections with 40 questions per section.

1. **Plant Identification, Selection & Placement**
   Includes plant protection, quality and availability

2. **Design Principles**
   Includes graphics, composition, scale

3. **Site Design**
   Includes client meeting, project management, specialty gardens

4. **Landscape Law**
   Includes laws, certifications, sustainable design

**Pre-requisites**
- FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional (FCHP)
- 2 Years of Experience

**Required Study Guides**
- Residential Landscape Architecture 5th or 6th Edition by Booth & Hiss
- Florida Friendly Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design
- FNGLA Landscape Law Study Guide
- Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries
- Florida Water Star Technical Manual (online) - Landscape Criteria
- FCHP Manual
- Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants

**Suggested References**
- Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Program and Plant Guide
- Waterwise Plant Database
- Native Florida Plants
- Butterfly Gardening for Landscapes

3/29/2018
FNGLA’s Certified Landscape Designer (FCLD) program provides a means to measure the skills of practicing landscape design professionals. The Landscape Plan Submittal is the most important tool used to determine the level of knowledge, skill and proficiency of applicants for the FCLD designation. Candidates are expected to show knowledge of design principles and a thorough understanding of the plant material utilized within the project they submit for certification. Each submission is judged on its own merits and is not compared to the work of others. Send as much documentation as you feel is necessary for the panel to fully appreciate your efforts and expertise.

The following is required of all applicants for FCLD:

1. Minimum of two years’ professional landscape design experience prior to application. Experience can be gained through private business, such as landscape design firms, or as landscape designers for landscape contractors, engineering firms or government agencies.

2. Successful completion of FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional (FCHP) program and written exams for FNGLA Certified Landscape Designer (FCLD) program. Applicant for FCLD exam must hold a valid FCHP designation before making application for the FCLD exam or submitting their plan for approval.

3. Submit completed FNGLA landscape certification exam application. Application packet must include proof of professional work experience, three client references with contact information, applicable educational records and fees.

4. Submit landscape plan. The plan may be for a residence, business or commercial establishment, industrial or governmental project, or other suitable project that demonstrates the applicant’s professional capabilities. The plan submittal must exhibit adequate vegetation complexity that includes appropriate quantities of groundcovers, shrubs and trees/palms. Plans submittals intended to satisfy code/permit requirements will be evaluated under the same criteria. Educational assignments will not fulfill these criteria. Graphics (hand drawn or computer generated) must be rendered by the applicant. The use of color is not required. The plan submittal should also:

- Exhibit an understanding of art principles (unity, balance, focal points, interconnection and rhythm, scale, repetition and variety) and how line, form, color and texture can be manipulated to create a unified design.

- Should exhibit knowledge of the use of line hierarchy and weight when drawing recognizable elements. They should be drawn to scale. Use clear, understandable, consistent professional graphic conventions, including proper lettering and labeling of all hard and soft materials, title block, borders, scale, and north arrow.

- Exhibit an understanding of space in relation to the aesthetic and functional principles of design.

- Use appropriate pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns.
• Show an awareness of general maintenance accessibility and requirements in relation to a client’s available time, as explained in the design intent statement.
• Meet the client’s functional and aesthetic needs, as explained in the design intent statement.
• Show site sensitivity and addresses sustainability.
• Show your creative solution to working with the characteristics of the site and your client’s desires.

The following are required elements of the landscape plan submittal:
__ Design intent statement (include information on existing site conditions, client needs or problems and how those concerns were addressed, design concept, budget, zone hardiness information, etc.)
__ All required materials and plant specifications (appropriate planting details, notes, plant list, specifications, etc.)
__ Before and/or after photographs (preferably both) of all or part of the site.

**CRITERIA FOR PREPARING WORK FOR REVIEW**

**DESIGN INTENT STATEMENT**

Your design intent statement should be clear, concise, and specific. The statement should include any information that enables the certification review committee to better understand the project. Be sure to include the reasoning behind your design. Where applicable, include:
- client needs, directions and budget;
- existing site conditions/problems (e.g. drainage, slopes, pH, and/or soil types);
- off-site conditions (e.g. adjacent views, structures, line of sight restrictions or other existing situations);
- arrangements for installing the design (designer’s company or other).

**GRAPHICS/PLAN**

1. Mail a copy of the original landscape plan drawn to scale. It must be submitted on standard paper size (e.g. 24” x 36”) and properly booked so all submissions fit into a standard 9” x 11” envelope. Please do not send reductions. Also, include a site plan of existing conditions, if possible.

The plan should include:
- scale
- north arrow
- date
- client’s name and your name/business name
- correctly labeled materials, and
- a complete plant list (alphabetized by botanical name), which includes botanical & common plant names, size, quantity and comments.
Although the recipient or installer may understand the plan, label everything accurately using scientific plant nomenclature from the plant list for ease of review. Including all existing features, plants and hardscapes.

2. Submit a plan intended for bidding and/or installation, not an educational assignment or in-house drawing. The plan should reflect the client’s professional services. An acceptable submittal should be of a scope that includes:
   - full size lot
   - diverse plant palette demonstrating horticultural expertise
   - design that positively impacts the existing site
   - sustainable landscape
   - technically correct tree and/or palm planting and staking details

   Additional, but optional, features include:
   - water features
   - site furnishings
   - landscape accessories
   - landscape lighting

   If the plan references other sheets or materials, include copies of these.

3. If the plan is primarily a restoration or renovation of an existing landscape, include a pre-existing site plan. Label everything as it exists, and indicate plants that are to be removed. Make changes and additions where appropriate.

4. Plans and photographs will not be returned unless requested and accompanied by a self addressed, stamped envelope.

PHOTOGRAPHS
Before and/or after photographs of all or part of the site should be included as they will assist the certification review committee in evaluating your submittal. The photographs should relate to some aspect of your design intent statement. Be sure to clearly label all photographs. Photos will not be returned unless requested. If you wish photos or materials returned, please include a return envelope with postage.

ELEVATIONS AND/OR PERSPECTIVE DRAWINGS
These drawings are helpful to the certification review committee but are not required.

A preliminary review will be completed within 30 days of receipt of your complete package. Final design reviews are completed quarterly. Mail your plan submittal with completed FCLD exam application to: Merry Mott, FNGLA
1533 Park Center Drive
Orlando, FL 32835

3/29/2018