

## **“Registration by Reciprocity” Rulemaking Summary**

The Oregon State Landscape Architect Board (OSLAB) offers two paths to registration – registration as a landscape architect and registration by reciprocity. The reciprocity rule applies the same criteria to a reciprocity request as are applied to other applications for registration. The idea behind the rule is sound – to set uniform standards for registration in Oregon. The Board needs to ensure sufficient education, passage of professional examinations, and demonstrated proficiency in the field for all individuals granted a registration.

The Board is proposing rule revisions for two reasons. The first is to update the 804-022-0005 and 804-022-0010 rules for registration to clarify language in relation to application criteria. The second is to address a recurring problem the Board and reciprocity applicants encounter with the current 804-022-0010 rule, i.e. the reciprocity rule. The reciprocity rule essentially treats all reciprocity applicants the same, regardless of years of experience as RLAs in other states. The rule requires evaluation of applicants as if they are at the beginning of their careers. Some applicants for reciprocity gained the supervised work experience required by the rule many years ago. The companies or supervisors they worked for may not be available to sign-off on work verification forms. This makes documentation of supervised work experience difficult or sometimes even impossible for reciprocity applicants to obtain. The current rule does not allow the Board to consider how long the applicant has been successfully working as a RLA in another state as a substantially equivalent alternative to supervised work experience.

Under the proposed revisions to the reciprocity rule, the Board has developed amended rule language for 804-022-0010 to create a new path for demonstrating work experience that is substantially equivalent to the registration requirements of 804-022-0005, as is required by ORS 671.345. The Board finds that an individual who can verify through the process outlined in the draft rule ten (10) years of work experience as a licensed Landscape Architect would have sufficient work experience to remove any doubt about how the individual was initially mentored and trained through supervised work experience. The Board further finds that a ten (10) year standard is appropriate as documentation of supervised work experience obtained less than ten (10) years prior to application should generally be reasonably available to an applicant. The rule revisions are designed to add flexibility and fairness to the reciprocity rule while still ensuring that only duly qualified professionals obtain an Oregon registration.