



Designer Selection Board Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The disciplines listed below represent a broad range of consultants commonly used on public design projects. For consistency, a basic definition is provided for each discipline to assist agencies and municipalities in determining which disciplines may be appropriate for a project. When advertising for design services, agencies and municipalities are encouraged to include these definitions with the list of requested project team consultants. The definitions are not intended to establish a project scope of work, but to identify the professional basis and general area of practice associated with each discipline.

Categories of Disciplines in the Designer Selection Network	Definitions
Accessibility and Universal Design Consultant	The title "Accessibility and Universal Design Consultant" refers to a professional consultant that can demonstrate requisite experience with inclusive or Universal Design strategies, existing conditions evaluation, and design review for state and federal accessibility requirements including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and 521CMR.
Acoustical Engineer	The title "Acoustical Engineer" refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the acoustical planning and design of building projects
Aeronautical Engineer	The title "Engineer" refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection Consultant	The title "Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Consultant" refers to a professional consultant who provides expert guidance on critical issues such as threat assessment, blast and weapon effects analysis, security evaluation, and countermeasures identification
Aquaculture Engineer	The title "Aquaculture Engineer" refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning and design of aquaculture facilities and systems, including water supply, circulation, filtration, water quality, life-support, and wastewater systems.
Archaeologist	The title "Archaeologist" refers to professionals that maintain a certification with the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) with a demonstrated record of experience of archaeology
Architect	The title "Architect" refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration with the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Architects
Art Consultant	The title "Art Consultant" refers to a professional consultant that specializes in curating unique and impactful art for public buildings.
Athletic Facility Planner	The title "Athletic Facility Planner" refers to design professionals who can display requisite experience in long-range master planning and pragmatic implementation strategies in study, design, and construction administration at campus recreational facilities and athletic complexes.
Audiovisual Consultant	The title "Audiovisual Consultant" refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, documentation, and integration of audiovisual systems for building projects.
Automation Engineer	The title "Automation Engineer" refers to design professionals with requisite experience in the planning, design, and implementation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems in labs, manufacturing, research facilities, and other support spaces.
Behavioral Health Facility Planner	The title "Behavioral Health Facility Planner" refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction in the required field of expertise.
Building Envelope Consultant/Engineer	The title "Building Envelope Consultant/Engineer" refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in building envelope systems in planning, designing, and building projects.
Civil Engineer	The title "Engineer" refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Civil Traffic Engineer	The title "Engineer" refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Climate Resiliency Consultant	The title "Climate Resiliency Consultant" refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in assessing climate hazards and integrating climate adaptation and resiliency strategies into the planning and design of buildings, sites, and infrastructure.
Coastal and Marine Engineer	The title "Coastal and Marine Engineer" refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning and design of coastal and marine projects, including shoreline, waterfront, flood protection, and related marine infrastructure.

Commissioning Engineer	The title “Commissioning Engineer” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in building systems commissioning, including design review, functional performance testing, and documented verification that systems perform in accordance with the owner’s project requirements.
Construction Manager	The title “Construction Manager” refers to professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, coordination, and management of building construction, including schedule, cost, quality, constructability, and construction-phase activities.
Correctional Facilities Planner	The title “Correctional Facilities Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction in the required field of expertise.
Cost Estimator	The title “Cost Estimator” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in construction cost planning, estimating, and cost control for building projects through the study, design, and construction phases.
Cost Estimator (independent consultant)	The title “Cost Estimator (independent consultant)” refers to an independent professional consultant that can demonstrate requisite experience in construction cost planning, estimating, and cost control for building projects through the study, design, and construction phases.
Courthouse Planner	The title “Courthouse Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction in the required field of expertise.
Data Communications Consultant	The title “Data Communications Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning and design of structured cabling, telecommunications, network, and related data communications infrastructure for building projects.
Educational Planner	The title “Educational Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction in the required field of expertise.
Electrical Engineer	The title “Engineer” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Emergency Communication Engineer	The title “Emergency Communication Engineer” refers to a professional with an electrical engineering degree and at least ten years of relevant experience in wireless communications
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Energy Modeler	The title “Energy Modeler” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in energy planning, modeling, and design
Environmental Engineer	The title “Engineer” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Environmental Professional	The title “Environmental Professional” refers to design professionals with requisite experience in environmental consulting services, including but not limited to hazardous materials investigations, environmental site assessments, regulatory compliance, contamination assessment, remediation planning and oversight, environmental permitting, and related environmental health and safety services;
Facility Condition Assessor	The title “Facility Condition Assessor” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in evaluating existing building and site conditions, identifying deficiencies, assessing remaining useful life, and developing repair, replacement, and capital renewal recommendations and cost estimates.
Fire Protection Engineer	The Title “Fire Protection Engineer (FPE)” refers to a licensed engineer who is responsible for designing and implementing fire protection systems for buildings and other structures, including fire alarms
Fisheries Biologist	The title “Fisheries Biologist” refers to a professional with knowledge of intensive hatchery trout production (egg to stock out), hatchery biosecurity, fish health, hatchery water supply, and wastewater treatment
Food Service Consultant	The title “Food Service Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the programming, planning, design, equipment selection, and specification of institutional or commercial food service facilities.
Geotechnical Engineer	The title “Geotechnical Engineer” refers to design professionals with requisite experience in geotechnical surveying, planning, and design, and that maintain a current registration with the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors.
Geothermal Engineer	The title “Geothermal Engineer” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning and design of geothermal and ground-source energy systems, including ground heat exchangers, bore fields, heat-pump systems, and associated building-system integration.
Health Facility Planner	The title “Health Facilities Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction in the required field of expertise.

Higher Education Planner	The title “Higher Education Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction in the required field of expertise.
Historic Preservation Consultant	The title “Historic Preservation Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in architectural preservation in planning, designing, and building projects.
Industrial Hygienist Engineer	The title “Industrial Hygienist Engineer” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in anticipating, recognizing, evaluating, and controlling environmental and occupational health hazards affecting building occupants, workers, and construction activities.
Information Technology Consultant	The title “Information Technology Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning and design of information technology systems and infrastructure for building projects, including network, computing, communications, and technology-support requirements.
Interior Designer	The title “Interior Designer” refers to design professionals that demonstrate competence by holding a nationally recognized certification.
Laboratory Planner	The title “Laboratory Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction of science laboratories, research and support spaces on higher education campuses.
Land Surveyor	The title “Land Surveyor” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in the category governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Landscape Architect	The title “Landscape Architect” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration with the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Landscape Architects
Library Planner	The title “Library Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction in the required field of expertise.
Licensed Site Professional (LSP)	The title “Licensed Site Professional” refers to professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in and authorized to oversee the assessment and cleanup of hazardous waste sites under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP).
Lighting Design Consultant	The title “Lighting Design Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in architectural lighting planning and design, including illumination, daylighting, lighting controls, photometric analysis, and coordination with building systems.
MA Building Code Consultant	The title “MA Building Code Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the interpretation and application of the Massachusetts State Building Code, 780 CMR, and related building regulations in the planning, design, and review of building projects.
Master Planner	The title “Master Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in long-range master planning and pragmatic implementation strategies in study, design, and construction administration.
Mechanical Engineer	The title “Engineer” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Owner's Project Manager	The title “Owner’s Project Manager” shall be defined as a registered architect or engineer by the Commonwealth Massachusetts, and have at least 5 years’ experience in the management and supervision of building construction and major repair projects. Registration can be substituted with a minimum of 7 years’ experience in the management and supervision of building construction and major repair projects.
Parking and Mobility Consultant	The title “Parking and Mobility Consultant” refers to design professionals with requisite experience in transportation, parking and mobility planning, analysis, and design.
Passive House Consultant	The title “Passive House Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in Passive House design principles and certification requirements, including energy modeling, high-performance building envelopes, airtightness, thermal-bridge control, and heat-recovery ventilation.
Performing Arts Consultant	The title “Performing Arts Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning and design of performing arts facilities, including performance, audience, backstage, theatrical systems, and related technical requirements.
Piping Engineer	The title “Piping Engineer” refers to design professionals with requisite experience with Cleanroom Design regulatory compliance planning and design.
Plumbing Engineer	The title “Engineer” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Process Engineer	The title “Process Engineer” refers to design professionals with requisite experience in the planning, design, and optimization of process modalities, viral vector gene therapy, cell therapy, oligonucleotide, lipo nanoparticles, and aseptic filling operations in labs, manufacturing, research facilities, and other support spaces.

Public Safety Facility Planner	The title “Public Safety Facility Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning, design, and construction in the required field of expertise.
Quality Assurance/Quality Control Consultant	The title “Quality Assurance/Quality Control Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in independent review of design and construction documents and processes for completeness, coordination, technical quality, and compliance with project requirements.
Realestate Professional	The title “Realestate Professional” refers to professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in real property acquisition, disposition, leasing, site evaluation, asset analysis, and related real estate activities.
Safety/Occupational Health Engineer	The title “Engineer” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Security Consultant	The title “Security Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning and design of security systems for corrections facilities including, but not limited to perimeter fencing, detecting system, site lighting, access control, video surveillance, alarm system, etc.).
Signage and Wayfinding Consultant	The title “Signage and Wayfinding Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in graphic design, wayfinding, and environmental signage.
Space Planning Consultant	The title “Space Planning Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in programming and space planning, including space needs analysis, occupancy, adjacencies, utilization, furniture layouts, and implementation strategies.
Specifications Consultant	The title “Specifications Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the preparation and coordination of construction specifications, including materials, building systems, product requirements, procurement requirements, and coordination with drawings and contract documents.
Structural Engineer	The title “Engineer” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Sustainability Consultant	The title “Sustainability Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in environmental regulations planning and design; and experience in Carbon Footprint and Energy Reduction, and Sustainable Strategies
Transportation Engineer	The title “Engineer” refers to design professionals that maintain a current registration in any one of the engineering categories governed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors
Trauma-Informed Design Consultant	The title “Trauma-Informed Design Consultant” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in applying trauma-informed principles to the planning and design of environments that support physical and psychological safety, choice, privacy, dignity, sensory comfort, and clear wayfinding.
Urban/Regional Planner	The title “Urban/Regional Planner” refers to design professionals that can demonstrate requisite experience in the planning and design of in urban spaces and infill development
Vertical Transportation Consultant - QEI Certified	The title “Vertical Transportation Consultant - QEI Certified” refers to design professionals that maintain a current QEI certification and can demonstrate requisite experience in the design, installation, maintenance, and modernization or elevators and other vertical transportation systems within buildings
Wetland Scientist	The title “Wetland Scientist” refers to a professional that maintains a certification with the Society of Wetland Scientist.