



Site Grading Fundamentals Workshop Syllabus for Winter 2022

Instructor: Kim Erslev, Architect and Landscape Architect
Core faculty member of the Conway School

Learning Objectives

In this course, participants will learn or sharpen their skills around:

- > the fundamentals of site grading
- > how to address problem drainage issues, flooding, and erosion on existing sites
- > how to create a grading plan for a site to prevent erosion, move or infiltrate stormwater, and create resilient outdoor gathering areas, and building projects
- > how to grade planes, driveways, roads, building sites, and accessible paths
- > common slope requirements and basic math formulas to refine your grading plans

Course Schedule and Zoom Link

Sundays 3:00-5:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

FIVE classes [no class on February 20]

Jan 23, 2022

Jan 30, 2022

Feb 6, 2022

Feb 13, 2022

Feb 27, 2022

Zoom link will be provided to registered participants. All classes will be recorded on zoom for playback later. All class materials will be available to students after registration and for two months after the course.

For questions about the workshop:

contact Kim Erslev at erslev@csl.d.edu; office hours available upon request

For for connectivity or logistical issues:

contact CJ Lammers at Institute@csl.d.edu or 413-270-2372

All of the materials created for this course are the property of the Conway School.

Detailed Schedule

CLASS 1: January 23rd 3-5pm

Introduction to the Fundamentals of Grading
Grading conventions, signatures, and typical slope gradients
Grading a plane in cut, fill, and cut=fill using retaining walls and 1:3 backslopes

CLASS 2: January 30th 3-5pm

Grading roads, paths, and drives
Laying out ADA paths on steep slopes
Grading roads and drives with crowns and swales

CLASS 3: February 6th 3-5pm

Grading with spot grades and formulas
Adding spot grades to planes; road sideslopes; roads, curbs, and sidewalks

CLASS 4: February 13th 3-5pm

Grading for stormwater management
Grade check dams, off-contour swales, and infiltration basins
Design and grade ponds and waterfalls.

NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 20

CLASS 5: February 27th 3-5pm

Grading building sites
Site buildings using spot grades, swales, and positive drainage

Class Format (times may vary, based on number and depth of questions)

Before Class: Participants will download and print out practice sheets and homework and preview and/or review class videos when assigned.

3:00 pm Introduce and describe the new grading skills to be presented this class

3:10 pm Show new skills videos. Kim will answer questions afterwards

3:30 pm Students work on new grading skills using Practice Sheets 1 and 2 Kim will be available to help via zoom during this time to answer questions and demonstrate how to solve problems.

4:20 pm All participants meet back in the class zoom room
Kim will answer questions and do practice problems, as requested

4:50 pm Introduce homework assignment and answer last questions

5:00 pm End of class

After Class: Participants will photograph or scan worksheets and upload them to the homework folder in the [class google drive](#). (Access will be provided after the first class)