



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

August 12, 2022

Educators

Lynn Ewanow
LAAB Chair
Kansas State University

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
California State Polytechnic University

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Galen Newman, Ph.D., ASLA
Professor and Head
Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning
School of Architecture
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843

Practitioners

Erin Degutis, ASLA, RLA
Duke Energy

Dale Jaeger, FASLA
WLA Studio

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA
LAAB Chair-Elect

Dear Professor Newman:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 7-8, 2022, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Texas A&M University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2024, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Gilbert Holmes
University of LaVerne College of Law

Derrek Niec-Williams
Howard University

Patty Reece
The Volland Store

The interim report should provide an update, with documentation demonstrating compliance when necessary, on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. In accordance with LAAB policy, programs have up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of this Accreditation Action Letter. If the RAA(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Accreditation Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

ASLA Representative

Kona Gray, FASLA
EDSA

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA
LAAB Secretary
Pennsylvania State University

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2028. Accordingly, the MLA program at Texas A&M University is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2028.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

Director

Kristopher Pritchard

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Reporting template. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Ewanow

Lynn Ewanow
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: M. Katherine Banks, President

Texas A&M University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 7-8, 2022

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Due to the prior recommendation, impacted by COVID, and given numerous leadership changes, continue the development of a strategic plan that accounts for realistic and attainable methods for advancing the academic mission and future direction of the BLA and MLA programs, aligning the MLA and BLA missions and educational objectives with each other and the Institution's (Standard 1).
2. The program should undertake a thorough review of the MLA curriculum. The curriculum (including course content, learning activities and assessments) should be updated to incorporate current knowledge and practices. The review should also seek efficiencies in the curriculum by examining redundancies among course content, relevancy of course content to program learning outcomes. Further, the review should seek ways to generate more individual work in addition to teamwork and diversify the scope and scale of practice types across the curriculum sequence so that upon graduation students can demonstrate diverse practices in their work (Standard 3).
3. Develop a Graduate Handbook of procedural and substantive requirements for MLA students that provides consistent and current guidance (Standard 4).

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board

Interim Report

Submitted By:

Submission Date:

Section 1.

Name of Institution:

Name of Department:

Name of Program:

Date of Decision Letter:

Section 2.

Recommendation Affecting Accreditation: (Copy/paste verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

Section 3.

Action Taken by Program: (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)

Section 4.

Prior Action Taken by Program: (If applicable, attach any prior Interim Report related to the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)