



*Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture*

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April 4, 2024

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Jane A. Buxton, Ph.D., ASLA  
Faculty of Practice  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, RI 02881

Dear Professor Buxton:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 22, 2024, meeting granted accreditation for a period of four (4) years to the course of study leading to the professional BLA degree at University of Rhode Island. This status is subject to the review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2025, annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

The interim report should provide an update, with documentation demonstrating compliance, when necessary, on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) from this final action letter 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.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. As stated in the LAAB Accreditation Procedures (page 16), the grant of accreditation will begin from the originally scheduled review date regardless of any rescheduling of the program's site visit. Therefore, the four-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2026 due to the one year delayed visit. Accordingly, the BLA program at the University of Rhode Island is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2026.

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. After review of all of this information, LAAB removed the Recommendation relative to Standard 1(E) reasoning that the program's response demonstrated compliance in this area. Since this is no longer a Recommendation, the program is no longer required to submit an Interim Report for this removed issue.

Enclosed is a list of Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Report 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxi J. Thoren".

Roxi Thoren, ASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Marc Parlange, Ph.D., President

**University of Rhode Island  
BLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
February 22, 2024**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Develop and establish an assessment process and define benchmarks for assessing and advancing the program toward meeting stated program goals (Standard 1).
2. Complete a long-range planning process that describes how the program's mission, goals, and objectives will be met, document the review and evaluation process, and determine if the plan presents realistic and attainable methods for advancing the program's academic mission (Standard 1).
3. Develop more formal and action-oriented review and evaluation of curricular and course activities and outcomes, including and formally documenting items for improvement (Standard 3).
4. Integrate adjunct and part-time faculty into the professional program's curriculum evaluation and development in a coordinated and organized manner (Standard 5).
5. Develop and implement a systematic evaluation process for all faculty addressing their development, teaching effectiveness and cultural competency (Standard 5).

**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:**

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**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.)

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**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)

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**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)