



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Kristopher Pritchard
Accreditation and Education
Director

September 13, 2019

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Derek Hoeflerlin, AIA
Associate Professor and Chair
Master of Landscape Architecture Program
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

Dear Professor Hoeflerlin:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its August 2-3, 2019 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at Washington University in St. Louis. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2021 and annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

The interim report should provide an update on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. Programs will be given 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. For any RAA(s) that have not been resolved, a second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of the Action Letter. If the RAAs 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 the 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. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2025. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2025.

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

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in an interim report) 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,



Rodney Swink, FASLA, PLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Andrew D. Martin, Chancellor

Washington University in St. Louis
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
August 2-3, 2019

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. The current Strategic Plan will end this year. With the uncertainty of who will lead and administer the program in the next 2-3 years and the possibility of faculty turn-over, discussions about the future direction should be initiated immediately among stakeholders before the changes occur (stakeholders might include faculty, graduate school director, school dean, advisory council, practitioners, alumni, students, etc.) (Standard 1).
2. The formal review process should be communicated to faculty more clearly than at present. The next chairperson and director should ensure that faculty are provided feedback as soon as annual reports are received. An annual performance plan can be developed by the faculty for areas that need to be improved or strengthened (Standard 2).
3. Strengthen and increase consistency in several areas: demonstrate comprehensive understanding of landform with respect to grading and drainage, manipulation of landform at a small scale, site planning with respect to pedestrian and vehicular circulation and interactions, supported by competency in construction detailing, including construction graphics, material specifications, and dimensions (Standard 4).
4. Balance the scale and scope of studio projects with increased prominence of neighborhood or medium-scale projects, including attention to implementation of projects at a variety of scales (Standard 4).

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board

Interim Report

Date:

Section 1.

Name of Institution:

Name of Department:

Name of Program:

Date of Decision Letter:

Section 2.

Recommendation Affecting Accreditation: (Describe 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)