



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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March 25, 2025

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Ebru Özer, FASLA, CELA
Professor and Department Chair
Department of Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design
College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts
Florida International University
Miami, FL 33199

Dear Professor Özer,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 26, 2025, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Florida International University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2026, together with 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 receipt of this Final 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 Final 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 December 31, 2030. Accordingly, the MLA program at Florida International University is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2030.

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 this information, LAAB decided to move both Recommendations relative to Standard 2 regarding hiring additional faculty/staff to Considerations for Improvement. At the time of this review, the program demonstrated compliance with Standard 2(B) Assessment 3 and Standard 2(D) Assessment 2; however, the current faculty workload could be unsustainable as the program's enrollment continues to grow. Therefore, the LAAB is flagging this issue for future reviews.

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 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, FCELA LAAB
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth M. Béjar, Ph.D., Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer

**Florida International University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 26, 2025**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Update the publicly accessible program information, which is currently inaccurate (Standard 1).
2. Ensure that all program disclosure information can be found with a single-click from the program's website (Standard 1).
3. Include adjunct faculty in the program's administration and curriculum (Standard 5).
4. Ensure adequate on-campus collaborative workspaces are available to meet the needs of the students (Standard 7).

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 the 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 Recommendations Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)