



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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August 16, 2024

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Academic Director, Master in Landscape Architecture
Associate Professor Graduate Architecture and Urban Design
Pratt Institute-Main
Master of Landscape Architecture
200 Willoughby Avenue Higgins Hall North 1
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Dear Professor Elkin,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 10, 2024, meeting granted candidacy status to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at Pratt Institute. This status is subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Candidacy is an accreditation classification granted to any program which is in the planning or early stages of development or an intermediate stage of program implementation. This accreditation classification provides evidence to the educational institution, licensing bodies, and the public that at the time of evaluation, the developing education program appears to have the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited educational program in landscape architecture.

After achieving candidacy status, a program must apply for initial accreditation within one year of its first graduating class. The program is required to communicate with LAAB when the known date of the first graduating class will occur. As a reminder, before a program can receive a grant of initial accreditation, they must be able to demonstrate compliance with all Accreditation Standards. If initial accreditation is not granted, the program can retain its candidacy status for one additional year.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report and the program review report.

On behalf of the program evaluator, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to him by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Roxi J. Thoren'.

Roxi Thoren, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Frances Bronet, President

**Pratt Institute
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 10, 2024**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Articulate the role(s) of the Program Director in the administration of the MLA program within the Department - to address the current lack of a policy specifying this role in the Pratt Institute's 2020 Faculty Handbook (Standard 2).
2. As the program produces graduates, establish a registry to track employment, professional activity, postgraduate study, and significant professional accomplishments (Standard 6).
3. As the program produces graduates, celebrate their accomplishments within the institution and the public at large (Standard 6).

Considerations For Improvement

1. Continue to develop and apply a broad range of assessments and apply these to continuous program evolution and improvement (Standard 1).
2. Continue to address the program's stated goals for DEI. Additional attention and resources should be applied to student recruitment and support, including currently under-represented student demographics (Standard 1).
3. In future faculty hiring decisions, strive to recruit under-represented faculty in support of the program's DEI goals (Standard 1).
4. Full-time and part-time faculty should continue to meet regularly, formally and informally, to discuss and update the curriculum and individual course content to coordinate skills and other content across courses (Standard 3).
5. Continue to provide faculty development support and to seek new sources of revenue to expand this support (Standard 5).
6. In collaboration with the Department, School and Institute, support and encourage individual faculty to pursue external funding to support faculty research and creative/professional work. This funding can also add to student support and assistantships. Cultivating a healthy entrepreneurial culture can yield important benefits (Standard 5).
7. To ensure continued success with tenure and promotion reviews among program faculty, maintain and expand peer advising and mentoring programs, including advising and supporting part-time faculty about their options for pursuing CCE status and associated salary adjustments (Standard 5).
8. Cultivate relationships with New York, National and International organizations and foundations focused on climate change, social and environmental equity, and community participation that could support ambitious development goals including, endowed faculty positions, student scholarship and assistantship support, and school infrastructure (Standard 6).
9. As the MLA program phases in its full cohort of students, and as enrollment grows as expected, it will be critical to acquire additional space within Higgins Hall. To continue to benefit from a healthy interdisciplinary culture within the School, it will be important for the MLA to be physically integrated with other programs and supporting infrastructure (Standard 7).