



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

August 15, 2024

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University of Connecticut
1376 Storrs Road, Unit-4067
Storrs, CT 06269-4067

Dear Professor Desimini,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its August 1, 2024, meeting granted accreditation for a period of four (4) years to the course of study leading to the professional BSLA degree at University of Connecticut. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 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 next scheduled accreditation visit will occur two years later. At that time, the Visiting Team will evaluate the program to determine compliance with all Accreditation Standards.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The four-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2028. Accordingly, the BSLA program at University of Connecticut is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2028.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roxi J. Thoren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Roxi Thoren, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Radenka Maric, President

**University of Connecticut
BSLA Program
LAAB Meeting
August 1, 2024**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. The landscape architecture Program Director, within a multidisciplinary department, must have the authority to significantly influence the management of resources, including budget, faculty review, tenure and promotion outcomes, and the direction of the professional program (Standard 2).
2. Adequate support personnel must be available to accomplish the professional program's mission and goals (Standard 2).
3. The program is required to have sufficient faculty FTE in order to be in compliance with the following:
 - a. at least three of the instructional faculty hold professional degrees in landscape architecture are full-time;
 - b. student/faculty ratios in studios typically not greater than 15:1;
 - c. sufficient faculty to carry out the mission, goals and objectives of the professional program (such as duties in teaching, research, service, program administration, academic advising, and creative professional development) (Standard 2).
4. To build awareness and to advance the knowledge and understanding of landscape architecture, improve visibility and recognition throughout the University. Such efforts should include, but not be limited to, specifically demonstrating how the Landscape Architecture Program contributes to the University mission and goals, and College's strategic plan (Standard 6).
5. Provide facilities that enable achievement of the professional program's mission and goals to serve the professional and educational requirements of the faculty, students, and staff. This should include access to more studio and sufficient collaborative workspace, appropriate presentation and meeting space and other facilities adequate to meet current and future student enrollment and enable co-location to facilitate design charrettes, cross-cohort mentoring and student teamwork building (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 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)