



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

August 28, 2020

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Joy Lyndes, ASLA, Chair
Coastal Sage

Ramon Murray, ASLA
Murray Design Group, Inc.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Dear Professor Hays:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 30-31, 2020 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2022, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Gilbert Holmes
University of LaVerne College of Law

Tom Jacobs
Mid-America Regional Council

Lucinda McDade, Ph.D.
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

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. 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 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 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.

ASLA Representative

Leonard Hopper, FASLA
Weintraub Diaz, LLC

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2026. Accordingly, the MLA program at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2026.

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA
University of Oregon

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.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

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.

Director

Kristopher Pritchard

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 black ink, appearing to read "Joy Lyndes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and end.

Joy Lyndes, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Robert J. Jones, Chancellor

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 30-31, 2020

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. The department should revisit the educational goals and objectives for both the BLA and MLA programs in order to transform them to the extent possible into expected achievements that can be assessed (Standard 1).
2. The department should revisit its long-range plan to more clearly link proposed actions to the mission, goals and objectives of the two programs (Standard 1).
3. To ensure the long-term health and stability of the department, the department should work with the Dean of the College to implement an appropriate strategy for appointing Department Heads (Standard 2).
4. The existing requirement for an internship with clearly articulated and evaluated learning objectives should be equitably applied to all MLA students, with clear evaluation metrics for granting waivers to students with work experience occurring prior to their acceptance into the MLA program (Standard 3).
5. Graduate-level learning outcomes should be articulated and evaluated for MLA students in the design track option such that there is demonstrable achievement of scholarly output in an identified capstone experience or terminal project (Standard 3).
6. Staffing for the teaching and learning mission of the program should consider the long-term goals of both degree programs including content expertise and contribution to the department's reputation for high-quality scholarly development and dissemination (Standard 5).

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)