



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

August 11, 2023

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Dear Professor Blakeman:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 10, 2023, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Louisiana State University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2025, 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) 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 Accreditation 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 Accreditation 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.

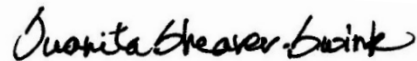
Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2029. Accordingly, the MLA program at Louisiana State University is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2029.

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 black ink that reads "Juanita Shearer-Swink". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: William F. Tate IV, President
Alkis Tsolakis, Dean

**Louisiana State University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 10, 2023**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Update the Long-range strategic plan and assessment protocols and use them to evaluate progress towards School mission and goals (Standard 1).
2. Update the LAAB-required public information on the School's website (Standard 1).
3. Increased BLA student enrollment has coincided with numerous faculty vacancies to result in some student/faculty ratios in BLA studios that exceed LAAB standards. Since faculty instructional assignments to cover both BLA and MLA courses come from the same collective pool of faculty, it is important to make sure that there are sufficient total FTE instructional resources to meet the expected LAAB student/faculty ratios in both BLA and MLA studio courses (Standard 2).
4. Update the School website to clarify that there is a single MLA degree (not MLA I, MLAI and MLA-AP) with options that grant advanced placement within the curriculum for qualified students (Standard 3).
5. Formally integrate research methodologies into the studio track option of the MLA culminating experience (Standard 3).
6. The University and School should work together to develop competitive faculty salaries and improved faculty retention (Standard 5).

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)