



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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Accreditation and Education
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Wolfram Hoefler, Dr.-Ing., ASLA
Department Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Professor Hoefler:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 22-23, 2019 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2020 and annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

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. Programs will be given 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 the Action Letter. If the RAAs 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 the 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, 2024. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2024.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team report, and the program's response to the report.

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in an interim report) 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,



Rodney Swink, FASLA, PLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Robert Barchi, M.D., Ph.D., President

**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 22-23, 2019**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. As the School (SEBS) finalizes its strategic plan, the Department of Landscape Architecture should also develop its own strategic plan (Standard 1).
2. The first professional MLA should have a clearly stated set of degree program objectives with clear connections to the curriculum design and courses (Standard 3).
3. Non-compliance with ADA has been an issue noted since a 2012 accreditation review. Facilities must be made ADA compliant or acceptable documentation of reasonable accommodation must be provided (Standard 7).

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)