



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

April 1, 2026

Educators

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
LAAB Chair
California State Polytechnic University
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Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Allan Shearer, Ph.D., FASLA
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Practitioners

Michael Grove, FASLA, PLA
Sasaki

Mark Hough, FASLA
LAAB Chair-Elect
Duke University

Susan Jacobson, FASLA, PLA
LAAB Secretary
The Morton Arboretum

Dear Professor Favour,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), at its meetings on March 26, 2026, granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at University of Minnesota. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2027, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams
Howard University

Chelina Odbert, Hon. ASLA
Kounkuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen
University of Miami School of Law

The interim report should provide an update, with supporting documentation, when necessary, on each Determination of Non-Compliance (DoNC) (formerly “Recommendations Affecting Accreditation”) from this Final Action Letter 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 DoNC(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will review and decide to accept that the DoNC(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 date of this Final Action Letter. If the DoNC(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 Final Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, suspended, or in some cases have its accreditation revoked.

ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP
MIG

CELA Representative

Mary Pat McGuire, ASLA, PLA
University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2031. Accordingly, the MLA program at University of Minnesota is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2031.

CLARB Representative

Lea Ann Macknally, ASLA, PLA
Macknally Land Design

Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

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. After review of this information, LAAB decided to remove the DoNC relative to Standard 2 regarding program administration based on the program's response.

Enclosed is a list of DoNC(s) (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Report template. This list was developed and approved by LAAB after its review of the materials 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, appearing to read 'Weimin Li', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA

LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, President

**University of Minnesota
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
March 26, 2026**

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Determinations of Non-Compliance

1. Syllabi are inconsistent in listing required and optional materials, equipment, and software and providing an estimation of expenses. Inclusion of mandatory and optional field trip expenses are also inconsistent (Standard 3.G.3).
2. It is not clear how the terminal project builds on the foundation of prior coursework and produces the intended integrated design solutions through a complete research methodology: explicit articulation of a research question or hypothesis, specification and execution of frameworks, theories, and methods to answer the question, and an evaluation or reflection on the final project as it relates to the research question or hypothesis (Standard 3.F.1).

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.

Determination of Non-Compliance: (Copy/paste verbatim the Determination of Non-Compliance identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If the Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Determination of Non-Compliance, complete an Interim Report for each Determination.)

Section 3.

Action Taken by Program: (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Determination of Non-Compliance 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 Determinations of Non-Compliance described in Section 2 of this Report)