



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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April 2, 2026

Dr. Pat Crawford
Director and Professor
School of Design
South Dakota State University
Brookings, South Dakota

Dear Professor Crawford,

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 BLA degree at South Dakota State University. 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.

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.

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

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 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: Barry H. Dunn, President

**South Dakota State University
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
March 26, 2026**

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Determinations of Non-Compliance

1. While the landscape architecture program's information is available via the program's public website and includes information about the program curriculum, technical requirements, events, and student achievements, much of the required public disclosure data is not found on the existing pages of the website (Standards 1.E.1 and 1.E.2).
2. The program did not demonstrate that syllabi include a list of required and optional materials and equipment and provide an estimated cost as well as available shared resources or alternative access. While most syllabi reviewed follow the SDSU syllabus template and contain a list of reading, texts, and materials necessary for the course, inclusion of these items was not consistent through the several courses reviewed. One consistent deficiency is the notice/listing of estimated costs for the required or optional materials and equipment (Standard 3.G.3).

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)