



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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Accreditation and Education
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Charles Frederick, RLA, ASLA, LEED AP
Interim Director and Assistant Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture and Environmental Design
Kent State University
Cleveland, OH 44115

Dear Professor Frederick:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 10-11, 2017 meeting granted candidacy status to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at Kent State University. This status is subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Candidacy is an accreditation classification granted to any program which is in the planning or early stages of development or an intermediate stage of program implementation. This accreditation classification provides evidence to the educational institution, licensing bodies, and the public that at the time of evaluation, the developing education program appears to have the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited educational program in landscape architecture.

After achieving candidacy status, a program must apply for initial accreditation within one year of its first graduating class. The program is required to communicate with LAAB when the known date of the first graduating class will occur. If initial accreditation is not granted, the program can retain its candidacy status for one additional year.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report and the program review report.

On behalf of the program evaluator, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to him by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ned Crankshaw'.

Ned Crankshaw, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Beverly Warren, PhD, EdD, President

Kent State University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 10-11, 2017

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Recommend a written, comprehensive, farsighted, long-range plan be developed during the retreat to be held during the summer of 2016. Educational goals and objectives with milestones or timeframes for accomplishment, recruiting targets, diversity of students and faculty, long-range plan renewal should all be included in the plan (Standard 1).
2. Recommend additional consideration be given to the courses in Site Engineering and Construction Methods to include articulation of learning outcomes and pedagogic strategies related to traditional and green infrastructure, principles of land surveying, construction layout, stormwater management, roadway and parking design, construction specifications and earthwork calculations (Standard 3).

Considerations For Improvement

1. The program should develop system(s) to capture, store and retrieve management information. Course evaluations by faculty, minutes from faculty meetings and retreats, annual requests for information from LAAB are examples of information that would be useful to capture now and refer to in the future to gauge progress and recall lessons learned (Standard 1).
2. The program should examine all syllabi to identify opportunities for increasing the application of knowledge and tactile learning (Standard 3).
3. The program should formalize an internship / augmentation experience that would include rigor on the part of the students and employers (Standard 3).
4. The program should find opportunities to display student work in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, in high-traffic locations on the Kent campus and in appropriate locations in Cleveland (Standard 6).
5. The program should develop a process to capture and maintain a registry of alumni that includes information pertaining to current employment, professional activity, post-graduate study, and significant professional accomplishments. This will be an annual reporting requirement to LAAB (Standard 6).
6. The college and the program should employ video/meeting technology to provide better connectivity between the Kent campus and the Cleveland facilities. Much time is spent driving back and forth especially by faculty. Video / meeting technology would reduce time spent on the highway, add a large measure of safety, be environmentally friendly and draw students and faculty together. Brainstorming might produce many opportunities even advantages for additional lectures, classes and seminars (Standard 7).