



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

March 16, 2020

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Joy Lyndes, ASLA, Chair
Coastal Sage

Ramon Murray, ASLA
Murray Design Group, Inc.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Dear Professor Artunc:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 7-8, 2020 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Mississippi State University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2021, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Gilbert Holmes
University of LaVerne College of Law

Tom Jacobs
Mid-America Regional Council

Lucinda McDade, Ph.D.
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

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. 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 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 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.

ASLA Representative

Leonard Hopper, FASLA
Weintraub Diaz, LLC

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2025. Accordingly, the MLA program at Mississippi State University is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2025.

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA
University of Oregon

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.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

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.

Executive Director

Kristopher Pritchard

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 "Joy Lyndes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Joy Lyndes, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Mark E. Keenum, President

**Mississippi State University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 7-8, 2020**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Revisit course learning outcomes for LA 4723 Professional Practice for the MLA program and develop course content to better reflect different landscape architecture practice including those in private firms, public agencies and institutions (Standard 4m).
2. Develop and maintain a specific program alumni registry and include current employment, professional activity, post-graduate studies (if applicable), and significant accomplishments (Standard 6).
3. Address the issues with Department facilities, including the following (Standard 7):
 - Uneven sidewalks where the difference in grade exceeds ¼ inch;
 - Regulation of thermal comfort in the BLA and MLA studio spaces, and print room;
 - Repair the electrical drop-down boxes where the boxes are damaged, wires frayed, etc.;
 - Address daisy-chained extension cords in the studio, print room, and sandbox room where multiple outlets are plugged in and could overheat; and
 - Remove area/space heaters from the studio spaces, even if directly plugged in to an electrical drop-down box.

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)