



*Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture*

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Ron Leighton  
Accreditation Manager

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Richard S. Hawks, FASLA, Chair  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
One Forestry Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13210

Dear Professor Hawks:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its July 27-28, 2012 meeting granted accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at the State University of New York at Syracuse. This status is subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2018. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2018.

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

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in annual reports) and suggestions for improvement (to be responded to in annual reports). 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,

Mary Myers, ASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Cornelius B. Murphy, President

**State University of New York, Syracuse**  
**BLA Program**  
**LAAB Meeting**  
**July 27-28, 2012**

**Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation:**

1. At a minimum upgrade the plumbing and mechanical system so that it provides water and energy efficiency and acceptable indoor air quality. Also, closely analyze the building for whether it is truly handicap accessible, not just code compliant (Standard 7).

**Suggestions for Improvement:**

1. Develop a long-range plan in which all aspects of the academic curriculum, faculty makeup, and facilities could be fully assessed. Develop short and long-term action plans that provide a roadmap for systematic implementation (Standard 1).
2. A comprehensive review of the curriculum is needed to address timing of courses in the curriculum, sequencing relationships to ensure that content and skills are available as necessary for application in studio projects, and the balance of content to ensure there is sufficient depth in growing or problematic areas for students to be sufficiently prepared for practice (Standard 3).
3. Create an articulated and integrated branding design (web site, newsletters etc.) that includes high quality graphic design and content that is meaningful and attractive to the contemporary landscape architecture market of students, scholars and practitioners to improve outreach and selected materials should be available in print format (Standard 6).
4. Ideally the entire building should be refitted with fixtures and systems that reflect the values of the Department, and follow the metrics and standards found in LEED and Universal Design. It is also suggested that when these improvements are made, that the design consider providing additional storage space for archives; new studio furniture such as larger desks and storage for student work; more consistent wireless access; sufficient outlets available for student use; crit/meeting space in studio because of combined studio section model of teaching; a research office for the CCDDR; a CNC router; digital projectors; more pin up space; a collaborative work environment; the inclusion of an adequate and well ventilated model shop; and "smart" classrooms (Standard 7).
5. Increase faculty input in regard to library content to make sure it stays current and is well utilized by the students (Standard 7).
6. Expand collections to critically important databases and indexes for landscape architects such as Garden, Landscape and Horticulture and key journals in the discipline such as Landscape and Urban Planning and Landscape Review as well as monographs (Standard 7).