



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

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Accreditation and Education  
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Robert L. Ryan, FASLA  
Department Chair  
Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA

Dear Professor Ryan:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 20-21, 2017 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at University of Massachusetts. 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, 2023. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2023.

In making its decision, 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). 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,

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

Ned Crankshaw, ASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Kumble R. Subbaswamy, Chancellor

**University of Massachusetts  
MLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
July 20-21, 2017**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. The U Mass MLA program faculty and administration should continue the development of a formalized strategic planning process that accounts for realistic and attainable methods for advancing the academic mission and future direction of the MLA program, including; academic goals and objectives, student recruitment and retention, and the prioritization of replacing faculty lines currently held by faculty members who may be potentially retiring in the near future (Standard 1).
2. The U Mass MLA program faculty and administration should develop a formalized assessment plan structured in a manner such as to facilitate the measurable assessments of the program's identified student learning goals and learning outcomes in order to more efficiently review and improve the effectiveness of instructional methods in curriculum delivery (Standard 3).
3. A complete evaluation of the LA 613 and LA 614 (Site Engineering and Site Materials respectively) course sequence should be conducted in order to assure that students completing both courses are capable of documenting a complete set of working construction documents commensurate with the entry-level professional expectations in landscape architecture (Standard 4).