



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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Accreditation and Education
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Dr. Elisabeth Hamin, Department Head
Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning
University of Massachusetts
Hills North 109
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

Dear Dr. Hamin:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 10-11, 2017 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional BSLA 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 December 31, 2022. Accordingly, the BSLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2022.

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, PhD, Chancellor

**University of Massachusetts
BSLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 10-11, 2017**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. It is recommended the program undertake, with full participation by landscape architecture faculty and in collaboration with department and college representation, a strategic planning process that addresses the changing faculty composition and expertise (including potential retirements and recruitments), the new facilities (including the new technologies that will be available), strategies to address ongoing student recruitment and retention, potential collaboration with new neighbors in the new Design Building, potential collaborations with other university partners connected to campus initiatives, and how to more fully integrate Landscape Architecture within the College of Social and Behavior Sciences (Standard 1).
2. It is recommended to secure institutional support to cover two essential curricular areas, technical site design and digital communications, in light of the clearly anticipated faculty retirements. Both areas are essential to ensure ongoing accreditation. In addition, seek institutional support to elevate the current part-time staff position to full-time to address program marketing, student recruitment, alumni networking, and advising (Standard 2).
3. It is recommend the program reconsider and potentially redesign curricular aspects of the program for improvement. The foundational curriculum does not fully embrace opportunities for student written expression in conjunction with oral, visual, media communications in particular throughout the studio sequence. In addition, encouraging depth demonstration in areas such as Technical Site Design, Advanced Graphics, and/or Planting Design is seen as an opportunity to be further explored (Standard 3).
4. It is recommend that the program continue to expand the student exposure to the many aspects of the profession of landscape architecture, including licensing and its requirements, throughout the entire curriculum. This could be done using more office visits, revisiting internship opportunities shorter than a year in duration, additional guest lecturers, and/or resident visiting professionals (Standard 4).