



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

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Ron Leighton  
LAAB Administrator

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Professor Jeff Hou, ASLA, Chair  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
College of Built Environments  
University of Washington  
348 Gould Hall, Box 355734  
Seattle, WA 98195-5734

Dear Professor Hou:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its July 23-24, 2014 meeting granted accreditation for six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at the University of Washington. 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, 2020. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2020.

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,

Karen Hanna-Towne, FASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Patricia Moy, Vice Provost

**University of Washington  
BLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
July 23-24, 2014**

**Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

None

**Suggestions for Improvements**

1. Clarify and align the terminology of the program's educational goals, desired professional skills, and course-specific learning objectives more explicitly and consistently with Departmental and the BLA Program Missions (Standard 1).
2. Update the department website to provide complete and readily accessible information on student achievement, graduation and retention rates, and tuition and fees, to comply with the 2014 LAAB Public Information Policy (Standard 1).
3. Departmental and College leadership develop greater transparency to develop a shared vision, understood fully by the faculty, to respond to the new Activity Based Budget (ABB) model and to meet expectations and goals outlined in the Department's Strategic plan (Standard 2).
4. Expand the Department's mentoring program for faculty at all ranks to prepare for tenure and promotion (Standard 2).
5. Make a more clearly defined connection between the four key areas of the program's mission: Ecological Infrastructure, Culturally-Based Place Making, Design for Ecological Literacy, and Human and Environmental Health, and the four areas of knowledge outcomes (listed in Standard 3A) and assure that the outcomes are formally assessed to assist in future curricular development (Standard 3).
6. Explore innovative ways to adjust teaching loads to support the faculty's continuous productivity in scholarship and creative work (Standard 5).
7. Integrate facilities and space planning for the department and the BLA program with College level strategic planning to support program capacity for growth (Standard 7).