



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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April 4, 2024

David Myers, Ph.D., ASLA, PLA
Associate Professor and Director of Landscape Architecture, MLA Chair
Landscape Architecture Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Professor Myers:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 22, 2024, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at University of Maryland. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2025, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

The interim report should provide an update, with documentation demonstrating compliance, when necessary, on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) from this final action letter 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 Accreditation 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 Accreditation 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.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2029. Accordingly, the MLA program at the University of Maryland is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2029.

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.

Enclosed is a list of Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Report template. 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 blue ink that reads "Roxi J. Thoren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roxi" and the last name "Thoren" clearly legible.

Roxi Thoren, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Darryll J. Pines, Ph.D., President

**University of Maryland
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 22, 2024**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Review and update the Program's Strategic Plan. Include the Program's educational goals in the Strategic Plan particularly as they relate to the four priority areas of faculty recruitment, visibility, program growth, and faculty development. Include a faculty hiring plan addressing possible retirements during the next six years (Standard 1).
2. A one-click link to the public information relating to both BLA and MLA programs should be provided on the landscape architecture "home" page (Standard 1).
3. More dedicated staff support within the Department is needed to accomplish the professional program's goals (Standard 2).
4. Review and ensure the syllabi of part-time lecturers include learning outcomes, course content, and the criteria and methods used to evaluate student performance (Standard 3).
5. Establish a method and rubric to review the curriculum learning outcomes in the MLA program on a regular basis (Standard 3).

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board

Interim Report

Submitted By:

Submission Date:

Section 1.

Name of Institution:

Name of Department:

Name of Program:

Date of Decision Letter:

Section 2.

Recommendation Affecting Accreditation: (Copy/paste 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)

Section 4.

Prior Action Taken by Program: (If applicable, attach any prior Interim Report related to the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)