



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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August 16, 2024

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Rob Holmes

Associate Professor and Chair

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Program

School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture

361 Graves Drive, 413 Dudley Hall

Auburn University

Auburn, AL 36849

Dear Professors Holmes:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 10, 2024, meeting granted candidacy status to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at Auburn University. This status is subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Candidacy is an accreditation classification granted to any program which is in the planning or early stages of development or an intermediate stage of program implementation. This accreditation classification provides evidence to the educational institution, licensing bodies, and the public that at the time of evaluation, the developing education program appears to have the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited educational program in landscape architecture.

After achieving candidacy status, a program must apply for initial accreditation within one year of its first graduating class. The program is required to communicate with LAAB when the known date of the first graduating class will occur. As a reminder, before a program can receive a grant of initial accreditation, they must be able to demonstrate compliance with all Accreditation Standards. If initial accreditation is not granted, the program can retain its candidacy status for one additional year.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report and the program review report.

On behalf of the program evaluator, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to him by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxi J. Thoren".

Roxi Thoren, ASLA

LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Christopher B. Roberts, President

**Auburn University
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 10, 2024**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. The BLA program should, with the support and guidance of the school and the college, define the under-represented groups it is attempting to recruit and address with its DEI plans and policies, and explain why these groups are of particular interest and importance to the BLA program and the profession (Standard 1).
2. The BLA program should commence a long-range planning process leading to the formal adoption of an appropriate plan to guide the new program toward a successful and sustainable future (Standard 1).

Considerations For Improvement

1. The program and the school should carefully monitor the support personnel needed by the BLA (and other programs), particularly as the BLA grows out its annual cohorts to maturity in 2027-2030 (Standard 2).
2. The program may want to consider instituting a more formal mentoring process for communicating the nature, policies, expectations, and procedures for Promotion and Tenure (Standard 2).