



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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August 29, 2025

María A. Villalobos H, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Director
Master of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism
College of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, IL 60616

Dear Professor Villalobos,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 31 - August 1, 2025, meeting granted provisional accreditation status for a period of two (2) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). This status is subject to review with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The two-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2027. Accordingly, the MLA program at IIT is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2027.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's Self-Evaluation Report (SER), the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report. After review of this information, LAAB decided to remove the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (Recommendation) relative to Standard 1 regarding the program disclosure information found with a single-click link from the professional program's website based on the program's response and verification of the program's website.

As defined in the LAAB Accreditation Procedures, provisional accreditation is granted when a program has one or more Recommendations and the cited deficiencies are such that continued overall program quality or conformation to Standards is uncertain. In this case, of the seven standards evaluated to determine accreditation status, the visiting team found IIT did not meet four standards (S.1, S.2, S.3, and S.7) and assessed one additional standard (S.5) as met with recommendation. LAAB had an extensive discussion about IIT and its compliance with accreditation standards. Based on the review of the program's SER, the visiting team's report, and the program's response, the board found that all 12 Recommendations raise legitimate concerns regarding the program's ability to sustain compliance with accreditation standards over time.

Since one or more standards were met with recommendation and the cited deficiencies are such that continued overall program quality or conformance to standards is uncertain, LAAB voted to grant the MLA program at the Illinois Institute of Technology provisional accreditation for a period of two (2) years.

Enclosed is a list of Recommendations Affecting Accreditation (RAAs). This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting. The program should work to address these Recommendations and demonstrate compliance with the standards by the spring 2027 review. As a reminder, provisional accreditation status is not deemed to be an adverse action and is not subject to be appealed, as outlined in the LAAB Accreditation Procedures.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to LAAB Director Kristopher Pritchard at kpritchard@asla.org or (202) 216-2359.

Sincerely,



Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Raj Echambadi, President

**Illinois Institute of Technology
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 31-Aug. 1, 2025**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Ensure the review and evaluation process of the program's long-range plan is well-documented to effectively track or measure progress against milestones (Standard 1).
2. Empower the program administrator to have the authority to significantly influence the management of resources, including budget and annual faculty review to enhance program development as well as faculty assignments and mentoring (Standard 2).
3. Ensure sufficient funding to maintain computers and appropriate software, other types of equipment, and technical support necessary for faculty to address the teaching mission of the program (Standard 2).
4. The professional program or institution should adequately communicate with and provide mentoring services to faculty of all ranks regarding policies and procedures for annual evaluations (Standard 2).
5. Provide a compiled and comprehensive set of student work to verify a range of individual student work representing student work since the last accreditation visit (Standard 3).
6. Clarify the range of research methods and skills used in landscape architecture such that they relate to the applied research methods used in terminal studios and research projects for all tracks to the MLA (Standard 3).
7. Ensure all MLA students demonstrate and exhibit creative and independent thinking and contain significant research and/or innovation components in a thesis or terminal project for all tracks to the MLA (Standard 3).
8. Ensure all syllabi are to include a list of required and optional materials and equipment and provide an estimated cost as well as available shared resources or alternative access (Standard 3).
9. While the program has a well-developed curriculum map for introduction, iteration and summative expectations for curricular coverage, it is not clear how evaluation and assessment is done, the metrics of success, nor processes of follow-up. Evidence of evaluation and assessment procedures and refinements must be maintained and accessible for review (Standard 3).
10. Develop and implement a formal professional program plan to systematically evaluate the development, teaching effectiveness, and cultural competence of faculty and instructional personnel through a peer and program review process and use the results for individual and program improvement (Standard 5).
11. Neither ADA compliance documentation nor reasonable accommodation reports have been received by the ROVE Team as of February 12, 2025, the date of the team's report out during the site visit. Ensure these documents are submitted promptly (Standard 7).
12. Ensure technical equipment such as computers and software are available to serve the diverse needs of faculty. Ensure hardware and software updates and replacement are provided to full-time faculty (Standard 7).

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 the 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)