



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

August 11, 2025

Educators

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
LAAB Chair
California State Polytechnic University
Pomona

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Allan Shearer, Ph.D., FASLA
University of Texas at Austin

David de la Peña
Associate Professor and Program Director
Department of Human Ecology
Landscape Architecture + Environmental Design Program
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616

Practitioners

Mark Hough, FASLA
Duke University

Susan Jacobson, FASLA, PLA
The Morton Arboretum

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Dear Professor de la Peña,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 8, 2025, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional BSLA degree at University of California, Davis. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2027, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams
LAAB Secretary
Howard University

Chelina Odbert, Hon. ASLA
Kounkuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen
University of Miami School of Law

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 date of this Final 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 Final 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.

ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP
MIG

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA
Pennsylvania State University

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

LAAB recognizes the program's response and effort made to address each of the RAAs. While enough time has not passed to demonstrate compliance, the program should report back impacts of those changes through the interim report process described above.

Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2031. Accordingly, the BSLA program at University of California, Davis is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2031.

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 Recommendations 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Weimin Li', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Gary S. May, Chancellor

University of California, Davis
BSLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 8, 2025

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Collaborate with the Department of Human Ecology to establish budget planning and tracking transparency that enables the Program Director to exercise greater authority for program activities over an operational budget for the LA + ED program (Standard 2).
2. Incorporate the Program Director into the process of faculty merit and promotion and tenure review (Standard 2).
3. Facilitate a broader role for the general administrative staff position to more effectively support the administration of the LA+ED program and its degree components (Standard 2).
4. Address the current reliance on part-time faculty by exploring opportunities to increase full-time faculty appointments. This would support greater curricular consistency, expand faculty research within the program, and distribute service responsibilities more equitably (Standard 2).
5. Increase the capacity of administrative staff to serve the LA + ED program in a more comprehensive manner that assists in managing the registry of alumni that includes information pertaining to current employment, professional activity, postgraduate study, and significant professional accomplishments (Standard 6).

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)