



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

August 11, 2023

Educators

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
California State Polytechnic University

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA
University of Nevada Las Vegas

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

Keith Christensen, ASLA
Professor and Interim Department Head
Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning
College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84322

Practitioners

Erin Degutis, ASLA, RLA
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Dale Jaeger, FASLA, PLA
WLA Studio

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA
LAAB Chair

Dear Professor Christensen:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 10, 2023, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Utah State University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2025, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams
Howard University

Patty Reece
The Volland Store

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) 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.

ASLA Representative

Kona Gray, FASLA
EDSA

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA
LAAB Chair-Elect
Pennsylvania State University

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2029. Accordingly, the MLA program at Utah State University is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2029.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
LAAB Secretary
Mark Thomas

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.

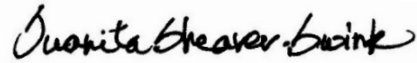
Director

Kristopher Pritchard

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 Reporting 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 black ink that reads "Juanita Shearer-Swink". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular background.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth R. Cantwell, President

**Utah State University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 10, 2023**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Continue to review the MLA core curriculum with a goal to address deficiencies in History/Theory, Construction Technology, plants and planting design, particularly relating to the intermountain west, and course sequencing (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)