



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

March 25, 2025

Educators

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

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA
University of Nevada Las Vegas

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

Practitioners

Mark Hough, FASLA
Duke University

Susan Jacobson, FASLA, PLA
The Morton Arboretum

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Public Representatives

Derrek Nicc-Williams
LAAB Secretary
Howard University

Chelina Odbert, Hon. ASLA
Kounkuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen
University of Miami School of Law

ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP
MIG

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair
Pennsylvania State University

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

Sarah Little, Ph.D., PLA

Associate Director

Division of Planning, Landscape Architecture, & Design

Associate Professor and Graduate Liaison Landscape Architecture Program

Gibbs College of Architecture

University of Oklahoma

Norman, OK 73019

Dear Professor Little,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 26, 2025, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at University of Oklahoma. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2026, 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 receipt 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.

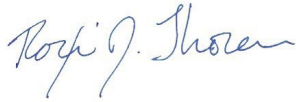
Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. As stated in the LAAB Accreditation Procedures (page 20), the grant of accreditation will begin from the originally scheduled review date regardless of any rescheduling of the program's site visit. Therefore, the six-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2029 due to the one year delayed visit. Accordingly, the MLA program at University of Oklahoma 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 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 blue ink that reads "Roxi J. Thoren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roxi" and last name "Thoren" clearly distinguishable.

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: André-Denis G. Wright, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Provost (Norman campus)

**University of Oklahoma
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 26, 2025**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Engage in an effective long-range planning and program assessment process to further develop the long-range plan - including how the MLA Program's goals and objectives will be met, documented, and evaluated to advance the professional program's academic mission (Standard 1).
2. Add depth and rigor to the construction documentation sequence and include elements of grading and drainage and construction documentation in the final project in order to strengthen student work and other accomplishments demonstrating that students are achieving the professional skills and competencies of this Standard. Also, promote the use of study models as a regular tool for evaluating studio work (Standard 3).
3. Revise and update of the MLA theory, methodology, and final Master's project sequence to promote creative and independent thinking and contain a significant research and/or innovation component addressing future challenges by advancing the knowledge within the discipline (Standard 3).
4. Add depth and rigor to the construction documentation sequence and include elements of grading and drainage, and construction documentation in the final project in order to bolster student work competencies required for entry-level positions in the profession of landscape architecture. Also promote the use of study models as a regular tool for evaluating studio work (Standard 4).

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)