



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

To: Roxi Thoren, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,  
School of Architecture and Allied Arts

From: Bart Johnson, Head, Department of Landscape Architecture

Re: Assessment Plan

Date: February 17, 2017

The national Landscape Architecture Accrediting Board (LAAB) professionally accredits our Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree program. Reviews and evaluations of both our BLA and MLA professionally accredited degree programs occur at six year intervals, and this is happening this spring quarter. At our last review in 2011 both these programs were fully accredited for a six-year period.

When completed by LAAB, we will provide our accreditation evaluation reports from this year to you and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs as our assessment report and plan for this academic year.

We expect this current accreditation process, including the improvements in instruction that the LAAB requires or encourages us to implement, to serve as our UO Assessment Plan for the upcoming years.

These accreditation reviews are comprehensive. They involve a team comprised of both academics and professionals who review the course content for all required courses and required-selected courses. The review team evaluates syllabi, assignments, course objectives, expected learning outcomes and student products from all class assignments. There are published accreditation standards against which these course materials and proofs of learning are evaluated. The team also assesses the overall and detailed learning goals and objectives of the BLA program and the qualifications and capacity of each corresponding faculty member to successfully instruct these. The LAAB report notes any learning outcomes and program objectives that are not being met and indicates necessary steps to remedy these. Implementation actions for these steps are then developed by our faculty to eliminate the specified instructional or programmatic deficiencies. Our work in doing so is reported to LAAB annually.

**DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

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In our last LAAB review in 2011, our BLA program had only one deficiency related to assessment and tracking of student performance in our studio classes in ways that aided improvement in these classes. We have addressed this deficiency by several means: (1) a new conceptual program guide that unifies the strategic sequence of learning goals through the while four-year-long studio class sequence; (2) a pair of new matrices of instructional objectives and learning outcomes across all the studio classes over time; (3) incorporation of these goals and objectives in all studio course plans as measured learning objectives; and (4) and a new final course evaluation form employed at the end of the term by which the student is graded, their performance communicated at a meeting between the student and instructor, their progress assessed over time, and for record keeping and data analysis by the department.

The UO Department of Landscape Architecture, in maintaining its good accreditation standing and responding to LAAB assessments, spends considerable time and effort reviewing curricular success, course success, and student learning outcomes. All the faculty review the work produced by all studio and many project-based classes together with the corresponding students and instructors. Students' studio work tends to also manifest what they are learning in subject-matter classes inasmuch as the former is applied and synthesized in the latter. As a result, the learning of our students across all our courses is well monitored and discussed and improved by the faculty as a whole. We hold one or two faculty retreats each year to discuss problems with our instruction and actions for improvement.

We also invite many external professionals to these class reviews and ask them to summarize their evaluations at the end of the reviews. This professional feedback regularly results in major and minor revisions to the goals, form and content of our classes.

Sincerely,



Bart R. Johnson  
Professor and Department Head  
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