



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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Accreditation and Education
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Don Burger, ASLA
Associate Professor and Coordinator
Landscape Architecture Program
School of Design
South Dakota State University
Brookings, South Dakota

Dear Professor Burger:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 16-17, 2018 meeting granted candidacy status to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at South Dakota State University. This status is subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Candidacy is an accreditation classification granted to any program which is in the planning or early stages of development or an intermediate stage of program implementation. This accreditation classification provides evidence to the educational institution, licensing bodies, and the public that at the time of evaluation, the developing education program appears to have the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited educational program in landscape architecture.

After achieving candidacy status, a program must apply for initial accreditation within one year of its first graduating class. The program is required to communicate with LAAB when the known date of the first graduating class will occur. If initial accreditation is not granted, the program can retain its candidacy status for one additional year.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the candidacy review report, and the institution's response to that report.

On behalf of the program evaluator, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to him by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth R. Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kenneth Brooks, FASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Barry H. Dunn, PhD, President

**South Dakota State University
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 16-17, 2018**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. The program should develop and maintain a long-range plan (Standard 1).
2. The program should hire one full-time faculty with a professional degree in landscape architecture as soon as possible (Standard 2).
3. The program should hire an additional faculty with a professional degree in landscape architecture before the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year (Standard 2).

Considerations For Improvement

1. The program should consider having faculty review of the program long-range plan, when implemented, be conducted following Spring Semester in order to be able to incorporate changes in the Fall Semester (Standard 1).
2. Consider clearly stating the significance of accreditation and the program's accreditation status on the webpage (Standard 1).
3. The program should consider syllabi containing categories of learning objectives, course content, evaluative metrics and evaluation methods (Standard 3).
4. When selecting future faculty, care should be given to select individuals holding professional license and practice experience (Standard 5).
5. The program should consider displaying or linking all copies of The Bluestem newsletter on their webpage (Standard 6).
6. The program should consider to begin working immediately with the SDSU Foundation and the SDSU Alumni Association to develop an alumni tracking system which will serve the needs all three organizations (Standard 6).
7. The program should consider conducting a review of the facilities and their adherence with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Standard 7).