LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 11C

CURRICULUM REVISION OF EXISTING CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas Fayetteville
2. Contact person/title: Dr. Terry Martin, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

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1. Title of certificate/degree program: Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
2. CIP Code: 04.0601
3. Degree Code: 2090
4. Effective Date: Fall 2019
5. Reason for proposed change:

Contemporary needs of our stakeholders incite a refinement and reform to our professional curriculum.  These needs include *accreditation requirements*, *alignment to faculty research*, *contemporary practice of landscape architecture*, *pedagogical best practices* and a *projected boost to enrollmen*t within the professional degree program.

Our last accreditation visit left us with one recommendation and three suggestions.  The recommendation related to the mission and measured learning outcomes of the professional curriculum.  The current department head arrived in the ensuing semester after the accreditation visit; and has worked with the faculty on the curriculum refinement to help align it and create framework for assessment.  This assessment will occur through a set of learning outcomes to be examined at mileposts of the curriculum by self-assessment, collaborative internal review, and external assessments.

From meetings with the faculty of the department, the department head noted the curriculum, long since refined, had not grown to link with their research or contemporary practice.  The refined, proposed curriculum increases connectivity.  With our relatively high contact hours (15+/week) and the nature of case studies in professional practice; it is common for classes in landscape architecture to relate to the expertise of our faculty members.  In these classes, faculty can challenge students from their creative, theoretical and practical research positions to explore implication and insight through case studies.

The faculty's research aligns well with trends in contemporary practice.  Our department wants to enhance its abilities to attain excellence in design and advocacy.  The new curriculum contains over twenty refinements to course descriptions to calibrate course content to current and projected future directions of the landscape architecture profession.  New modules linked to design studio help students develop the capacity to become advocates; and to learn how to advocate to their broad set of stakeholders about their innovative works.

In addition to the individual course descriptions being refined, the courses have been constructed and calibrated to reflect best practices in curriculum development and learning.  The courses have names linked to both cognition and content (i.e. going from a numbered design course like 'Design Six' to a named sixth studio) for the courses and the years of the curriculum.  Thematic names for the years create a 'learning community' for the students.  We project in the new curriculum to have concurrent semester courses linked for students through concept, cognition and content.  The students’ creative studios, communications courses, technical courses and history/theory can complement one another.  Studies show students can better access and retain knowledge for use if it is linked to other courses and cognitively framed.

Several other landscape architecture departments have moved from five years to four in the past few years.  Reported data from these programs to the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board and the Council of Landscape Architects Registration Board include increased quality of curricula, better enrollment and better retention in addition to other positive trends in efficiency and quality.  We project that we will see these aspects of our proposed curriculum reform have similar impacts here at the University of Arkansas.

1. Provide current and revised curriculum outline. (Indicate total credit hours for current certificate/degree and total credit hours for revised certificate/degree.)

See attachment.

1. Institutional curriculum committee review/approval date for revised degree:

December 5, 2018

1. Provide additional program information requested by ADHE staff.

President/Chancellor Approval Date: January 21, 2019

Board of Trustees Notification Date: March 28, 2019

Chief Academic Officer: James S. Coleman Date: January 10, 2019