

Nation, Kourtney@DCA

Subject: FW: UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Update
Attachments: UCLA Landscape Architecture Pilot Low Residency-final.pdf

From: Landregan, Stephanie <SLandreg@unex.ucla.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 11:37 AM
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Good morning Trish,

As I have mentioned to you in previous phone calls, we are piloting a low residency program, which we started in January, and are continuing this Spring quarter (and beyond we hope).

I've prepared an informational sheet on our reasoning, protocols, and plan. I hope you can provide this to the LATC members for their information. We will be presenting the plan for formal approval in the fall of 2022 if our results are successful.

Our plan is to review the success of this educational platform from both the student's and instructor's viewpoint, and also reviewing the outcomes. To that end, we also would welcome having the LATC members as class critics. We have had the pleasure of several members in the past, and if willing, I can let the members know who our final reviews are planned (this would be in June for the finals, and a few in May).

Please feel free to contact me, or have the members contact me if you have questions.

Have a great day!

Stephanie

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"It is always the right time to do the right thing." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Spring 2022 enrollment is open: www.uclaextension.edu



UCLA Landscape Architecture Pilot Low Residency-4/4/22

Introduction

The ways of education and work are undergoing fundamental changes. These changes have been occurring due to the ongoing development of online connection of individuals and organizations. The COVID 19 pandemic has accelerated the move to online and distance education and employment. In response to the pandemic the UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Certificate Program successfully shifted to online distance learning format. The program is considering the adaption of this shift serve more students including those who live out of commuter range of UCLA and interest from former UC Berkeley Extension students to resume/continue with an Extension Certificate.

A low-residency master's program is a master's course of study that involves a residential stay limited to no more than a few weeks within a during the program. UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Certificate Program is a post-baccalaureate program; with this designation, it is similar to a three-year Master of Landscape Architecture degree in scope and length. For our consideration and circumstances, the residential term of the program might be no longer than a single weekend or two per quarter. The duration of residency in the program includes distance-based remote education in order to complete it.

Program Layout

Extension Certificates in Landscape Architecture are regulated by the Landscape Architects Technical Committee, through the California Business and Professions Code, under Title 16, Division 26, Article 1. 2920.5. With the closure of UC Berkeley's Extension Landscape Architecture Certificate Program, the UCLA Extension Program is the only evening and weekend educational option within California. With that in mind, how should the UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program expand to serve all of California?

Landscape Architecture as a practice is nature-informed and site-based. Landscape Architecture requires observation; the senses inform observation, analysis and design.

In 2019 when campuses across the world moved to remote instruction, experience-based learning suffered. The remote learning platforms provided great opportunities for theory and knowledge, but have lacked teaching within a real-world context that enables designing with nature. As the pandemic has continued, education has stepped up to make skill-based education accessible. But an understanding of the site, its context and climate – sensing the environment – cannot be fully conveyed via Zoom or Google Earth.

Quarantining and social isolation gave many people time to return to school. UCLA Extension's Landscape Architecture Program attracted students from all over California, the northwest and even

the east coast. The need to accommodate our geographically expanded student body and to return to site-based experiential education has inspired the program to pilot a low-residency program.

Many students cannot leave their jobs and families or change careers due to the traditional university programs' full-time focus. Ultimately, the low-residency program would enable those within it to complete their landscape architecture studies with a minimum commitment of face-to face class, minimizing leaving their jobs or communities to attend evening and weekend classes.

There will be no extension of the program length. The low-residency program will require two Los Angeles-based, site-specific and/or studio specific classes per quarter (typically two weekends). During the residential period, program instruction will include site visits, site analysis, studio instruction, and the opportunity to meet and network with their student cohort.

Los Angeles Vicinity Based courses for cohorts

Outside of the time that program participants are on-site, their main directive will be to attend nine live remote classes and meet learning objectives and complete assignments. Though not physically on campus, participants will be expected to structure their education in a self-driven and productive manner.

During the three-year certificate program, student cohorts will share a weekend of instruction for design and hands-on studio courses. This will reduce travel and costs for the students. Cohorts will be coordinated (to minimize travel and accommodations). Off-sequence students will have conflicts, which cannot be accommodated. Technical computer courses will not have a site component, and will remain fully remote online. Technical courses (Irrigation, Planting Design, Grading and Drainage) will have at least one site component.

Design studios will have one or two site visits. Or in lieu of two site visits, a super studio – in the form of a charrette design studio – enabling students to learn site analysis, brainstorm and collaborate on design solutions.

Pilot Feedback and Lessons Learned

As a pilot, each pilot class will survey both instructors and students as to the success of the format, seeking insight and suggestions to advance the format to meet teaching platforms, learning objectives and student needs. The coordination between instructors has been critical for scheduling concurrent classes on the same weekend.

A summer instructor retreat is planned for June 11 to review progress, invite comments, insights and discussion on the success, the problems or obstacles, and future implementation of the low-residency format.

For information contact: Stephanie Landregan, FASLA, Program Director; slandreg@unex.ucla.edu