

**Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
Landscape Architecture Programs**

PROGRAM ASSESSED:

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
BLA, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAJOR

BY PROGRAM OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR:

PAUL HSU, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared by Paul Hsu

Executive Summary (full report available upon request)

| Degree Program (s) Assessed | Assessment Methods Used | Numbers of individuals assessed |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Bachelor of Landscape Architecture BLA, Landscape Architecture Major | Records of student enrollment, graduation rate, and employment status from the past 2 to 3 years | 105 |
| | Records of visiting lecturers/critics | 105 |
| | Evaluation of design projects by professional jurors | 50 |
| | Records of senior student portfolio reviews | 17 |
| | Capstone course evaluation | 17 |
| | Student exit interviews | 16 |
| | Design competition | 32 |
| | Internship performance review | 4 |
| | Digital Portfolio for professional phase review | 17 |
| | Japan study abroad survey | 14 |

Analyses and Findings

1. Student Performance

Student enrollment in Landscape Architecture (LA) showed a 10% increase last year. Total number of LA students increased from 90 to 105 in academic year 2002-03. 16 LA students graduated in the 02-03 academic year. Student employment indicated that students went into private practice and design and build practices with five in private and two in design/build with remaining students actively seeking employment in this economic down time.

2. Records Of Visiting Lecturers/Critics

56 jurors including speakers were arranged throughout the 2002-03 academic year.

3. Records Of Senior Students' Portfolio Review

17 senior students were involved in the review. The results of this review are graded from medium to high.

4. Evaluation Of Design Projects By Professional Jurors

The design evaluation was conducted on junior and senior students' Design I, II, III, IV, V, Seminar II, Land Use and Community Planning, and Recreational Planning projects by outside jurors. Overall, the juror's comments were very positive. They thought that all the projects, either live or hypothetical, are a practical learning experience, and the students presented medium to high quality work.

5. Evaluation of Capstone Course

The project was appropriate and it included adequately complex socio-economic, environmental and landscape architectural, planning and urban design issues. The course instructor and the professional jurors determined that approximately fifty per cent of the class of 17 performed above the national average, and thirty-five per cent performed at the national level. The performance of 15% per cent of the class was below the national average.

6. Responses Of Student Exit Interviews

An exit interview survey form was sent to 17 undergraduate LA students who graduated Spring 2003. 7 students replied with above average rating for quality of department and many positive comments for improvement. Student comments were reviewed by faculty and they are being addressed.

7. Digital Portfolio for Professional Phase Review

In Spring 2003 we implemented portfolio reviews to third years students who are applying for 4th year professional phase of Landscape Architecture Program. Students are required to compose their portfolio digitally with final output in both digital and print formats. A rubric form is developed to evaluate students' portfolios. Most of the students did excellent work on their portfolio and the rest of students did satisfactory work also. Scores of this evaluation are used along with other application material to select qualified students to be admitted into professional phase of the program.

8. Field Day and Design Competition

Four LA students along with Five LC students entered 2003 annual ALCA field day competition. Our students did satisfactory. OSU ranked 28th overall out of 51 competing schools. Among 671 students participated in the events, our students ranked from 23rd to the mid range. Three students were recognized in the ASLA national student design competition 2002 "Special Commendation". There were six entries to New York City Broadway Bloom Design Competition from the planting design class; one entry was selected for display in New York. It shows our student quality and faculty dedication. This year our students also entered the international IFLA design competition and Charles E. Peterson Prize for Historic Measured Drawings Competition, result is still pending. We also have Peruvian students visited our program and interacted with our Design IV students.

9. Study Abroad Program Survey

13 students participated in this survey. A few questions such as the time frame of the project, the sketchbook project, and what experience they gained from the study abroad and culture exchange programs were ranked very high. This survey is certainly a reflection of the essence of Japan Study Abroad Program and will be used for future program planning and improvement.

10. Internships Performance Review

The internship program is designed to enrich the education of landscape architecture students through meaningful off-campus work experiences. Students are evaluated through bi-weekly reports, employer's evaluation, and the students' oral and written reports. 4 students participated in this program last year and their ratings were among high to medium.

Instructional changes and future planning as a result of outcomes assessment:

The department has been monitoring the student outcomes very closely. Based on the outcomes assessment result of the last few years, we have implemented the following changes or modification.

- Project screening Because of professional jurors' positive responses, more careful screening of real world projects are being made to insure all design courses carry good, realistic, and practical projects. More hands on project will be planned to facilitate experiential learning. Invite professional to simulate an office like charette in studios.
- Computer training Graphic sketches and scanning, digital camera, and presentation software are integrated into graphic courses. Desktop publishing and slide presentation also became part of the design presentation process. Students also are required to publish their portfolio in digital format for performance review.
- Portfolio review Landscape Architecture program continue to apply portfolio review process to maintain the higher quality of students entering professional phase. Second year in a row we went all digital and students adapted to this format very well.

- Internship
We maintain good contacts with professionals and employers and assist students with securing internships. Students actively participated in this off-campus educational opportunity. It is critical to maintain contact with professionals in the field and monitor our students' performance as a reference to our curriculum quality.
- Study Abroad
Based on the Japan study abroad program survey, many improvement such as host family exchange, culture workshop, urban landscape professional office visit, and citizen interaction, and studio exchange with Kyoto University of Art and Design were implemented on our Japan Study Abroad Program 2002 and 2003. Peruvian students visited our program and interacted with Design IV students.
- Design Charette
based on student exit interviews and design course evaluations, we invited major professional office to conduct several design charette and/or workshops. Students got the benefit of real world intense but creative design processes. Program Outcomes Assessment Annual report, 2003