

University of Colorado-Denver

Interim Progress Report for Year Five

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE TWO MOST RECENT NAAB VISITS: 2015 and 2009

CONDITIONS NOT MET

2015 VTR	2009 VTR
None	2 Program Self-Assessment Procedures
	5 Studio Culture
	12 Professional Degrees and Curriculum

STUDENT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA NOT MET

2015 VTR	2009 VTR
B.2 Accessibility	13.14 Accessibility
B.6 Comprehensive Design	13.16 Program Preparation
B.7 Financial Considerations	13.18 Structural Systems [60-credit hour track]
C.9 Community and Social Responsibility	13.26 Technical Documentation

CAUSES OF CONCERN

2015 VTR	2009 VTR
Identity	Campus Relationships
Student Representation	Strategic Planning
Strategic Planning	Community Engagement
Curriculum Concentration and Certificates	Facilities
Resource Strain	
Facility Improvements	
Faculty Diversity	

Interim Progress Report Year 5
University of Colorado-Denver
College of Architecture and Planning
M. Arch. [pre-professional degree plus 60 credits]
M. Arch. [non-pre-professional degree plus 105 credits]

Year of the previous visit: 2015

Please update contact information as necessary since the last APR was submitted.

Chief administrator for the academic unit in which the program is located:

Name: Marc Swackhamer

Title: Chair, Department of Architecture, College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado, Denver

Email Address: marc.swackhamer@ucdenver.edu

Physical Address: 1250 14th St, Suite 2000, Denver, CO 80217-3364

Any questions pertaining to this submission will be directed to the chief administrator for the academic unit in which the program is located.

Chief academic officers for the Institution:

Name: Nan Ellin

Title: Dean, College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado, Denver

Email Address: nan.ellin@ucdenver.edu

Physical Address: 1250 14th St, Suite 2000, Denver, CO 80217-3364

Name: Roderick Narrin, PhD,

Title: Provost, Executive Vice Chancellor Academic and Student Affairs, University of Colorado, Denver

Email Address: provost.narin@ucdenver.edu

Physical Address: 1380 Lawrence St, Suite 1400, Denver, CO 80204

Name: Michelle Meeks, PhD,

Title: Chancellor University of Colorado, Denver

Physical Address: 1380 Lawrence St, Suite 1400, Denver, CO 80204

Text from the previous VTR and IPR Year 2 Review is in the gray text boxes. Type your response in the designated text boxes.

I. Progress in Addressing Not-Met Conditions and Student Performance Criteria

a. Progress in Addressing Not-Met Conditions

N/A

b. Progress in Addressing Not-Met Student Performance Criteria

University of Colorado Denver, 2020 Response: Narrative satisfied by Two-Year IPR.

II. Progress in Addressing Causes of Concern

University of Colorado Denver, 2020 Response: Narrative satisfied by Two-Year IPR.

III. Changes or Planned Changes in the Program

Please report such changes as the following: faculty retirement/succession planning; administration changes (dean, department chair, provost); changes in enrollment (increases, decreases, new external pressures); new opportunities for collaboration; changes in financial resources (increases, decreases, external pressures); significant changes in educational approach or philosophy; changes in physical resources (e.g., deferred maintenance, new building planned, cancellation of plans for new building).

University of Colorado Denver, 2020 Response:

2018: a non-tenured Asst. Prof was promoted to TT Asst. Prof and a Prof retired.

2019: a non-tenured Asst. Prof was promoted to TT Asst. Prof, a Prof. was hired, a Visiting Asst Prof was hired (AY19/20), an Assoc. Prof retired

2020: a Visting Asst. Prof was hired (AY 20/21) a Visiting Instructor was hired (AY 20/21) a 30% Instructor was hired, a Senior Instructor retired, (2) Assoc. Prof. retired and a non-tenured Asst. Prof resigned

Hiring plans include: 2021 faculty search for Prof, Assoc. Prof and Visiting Assoc. Prof and 2022 faculty search for Prof, Assoc. Prof and Visiting Assoc. Prof

Administrative changes – New Department Chair Hired July 2019, Marc Swackhamer.

Changes in enrollment – Increase in enrollement – Undergraduate by 15% since 2017, Graduate by 8% since 2017.

New opportunites for collaboration –Integral studio: This is a new initiative, a collaboration between Landscape Architecture, Architectue, and Urban Planning, along with Urban Design. We have changed our studio schedule in the M. Arch program to align with the studio schedule of the other programs in the college to allow opportunites for integrating and collaborating. We've also hired a new Director of our HIPR Program (Steve Turner), who has opened collaborative opportunities with that program.

Changes in financial resources – New incentivized budget model instituted 2019.

Significant changes in educational approach or philosophy –Recently approved a new strategic plan (included in attachments). We also have an approved new Statement of Purpose: “Through inquiry and making, we engage diverse perspectives, in pursuit of an architecture open to all.” This statement foregrounds three strengths of our program, while also setting our future trajectory and aspirations.

First, we are a making-centric school. We value making, through things like our design-build certificate, as a central modality of thinking and inquiry. Second, we are not a dogmatic school. We value many traditions and perspectives, and we interrogate all of them to understand and question them. Third, we aspire to open the discipline of architecture to all people, both in terms of who makes up the profession and who we work with in the community. This statement is central to all that we do.

Changes in physical resources – no changes to report

IV. Summary of Preparations for Adapting to [2020 NAAB Conditions](#)

Please provide a brief description of actions taken or plans for adapting your curriculum/ classes to engage the 2020 Conditions.

University of Colorado Denver, 2020 Response: In reviewing the 2020 NAAB Conditions, and, in particular, the document's "Minimum Competency Upon Graduation Goals" in the introduction, we can scaffold our efforts around these seven overarching points. These goals clearly summarize the larger changes to the 2020 Conditions and the rationale behind those changes. As we work to address these goals, we foundationally address and adapt to the 2020 NAAB Conditions. Our recent efforts and changes to our curriculum, teaching, hiring, and programming address these. Below are the NAAB's 2020 Condition goals, along with the strategies through which we're addressing those goals:

Promote excellence and innovation in architecture education:

Here, we have started with changes to our undergraduate, BS degree, which is catalyzing important changes to our M. Arch program. Our new BS curriculum incorporates both a four-studio design studies track and a six-studio pre-professional track. Students from these two tracks will enter into either studio 3 of our M. Arch program (design studies) or studio 5 of our M. Arch program (pre-professional). Pre-professional track students will then, after completing studios 5 and 6 in the M. Arch program, enter into a second year of the M. Arch program where they will complete an architecture thesis. The thesis will offer students and faculty opportunity to focus on emerging global issues in the built environment and to innovatively address those issues through the lens of architecture.

About 2/3 of our courses are taught by part-time, adjunct faculty members. We are actively developing ways to both support and evaluate these faculty members. To support them, we are developing workshops that lay the groundwork for expectations and quality in their courses. To evaluate them, we are developing a clear and rigorous evaluative process for assessing the quality of coursework taught by our adjunct faculty.

Allow program flexibility that adapts to a dynamic context:

We encourage faculty to teach elective seminars, lecture courses, and studios that align with emerging disciplinary issues they explore in their research. Every full-time faculty member is asked to teach some of their courses in our core, required areas of the curriculum, and others that align with their research. This allows for them to bring emerging topics that respond to dynamic contexts of the profession to the students in our M. Arch program.

We regularly support sponsored studios that align with and are collaborations with community groups and business entities in Denver and the broader Colorado Region. These studios examine emerging, dynamic issues impacting this part of the country, like access to health care, technology innovation, affordable housing, access to water, and sustainability.

Encourage distinctiveness among programs:

Through the process of recently developing a new strategic plan and statement of purpose for the Architecture Department, we have worked to develop the department's first unique visual identity. This identity is inspired and informed by these documents and their associated vision for our future trajectory. This new identity will catalyze collateral material, in print and online, to bring heightened distinction and awareness of our programs.

Within our department, a number of faculty members have brought national recognition through their teaching and research efforts. In particular, Professor Rick Sommerfeld has heightened CU Denver's Design Build Program, The Colorado Building Workshop, to a place of distinctive national reputation. Professor Kevin Hirth has presented widely, nationally, at ACSA and ACADIA Conferences, and has won a number of prestigious national awards, like the Architecture League of New York Prize. Chair and Professor Marc Swackhamer has started a new research lab called LoDo Lab, which has been published widely and the work of which recently appeared on the cover of Architect Magazine's Research and Design Awards issue, 2020. We encourage and promote distinctiveness and visibility among our faculty members and value it tremendously.

We will hire three new full-time faculty members this year who will bring new touch points of visibility and recognition to our already-strong faculty research and teaching portfolio. One faculty member will be hired in the area of building technology, one in the area of history/theory, and one in the area of justice, equity, and inclusion.

Support equity, diversity, and inclusion in architecture education and the profession

In spring of 2020, the department launched its own NOMA-S (National Organization of Minority Architecture Students) group. This student group, open to both undergraduate and graduate students, has been incredibly active, creating student design competitions, listening sessions, workshops, and lectures, among other activities.

This year, the department will hire a full-time faculty member with a research emphasis in the area of JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion). This new position will further emphasize and foreground the importance of access and equity in the discipline to our professional degree students. This year, in 2020, we started a college-wide, JEDI scholarship. It was already been built to a substantial level and will start providing valuable access to underrepresented students interested in architecture in 2021.

The College of Architecture and Planning has launched a new college-wide JEDI Committee whose task it is to develop a robust and meaningful JEDI Statement for the College, and to also develop and implement an actionable JEDI Plan with tangible deliverables and metrics.

This year, we launched a 3-part JEDI workshop series for faculty and staff in the Architecture Department. The first workshop covered the topic of "Unconscious Bias," the second covered "Best Practices in Syllabi Development," and the third will cover "Intercultural Communication."

As a collaboration between Architecture and Landscape Architecture, next fall, we will launch a new course that explores how we might change our curriculum in the Architecture and Landscape Architecture Departments to proactively change the culture of the discipline and more effectively open built environment disciplines to all. This course will be co-taught by the Chairs of the Architecture and Landscape Architecture Departments.

Increase access to the profession of architecture:

Many of the initiatives and efforts mentioned above also address this goal of the 2020 NAAB Conditions: our new JEDI Scholarship, our new NOMA-S organization, and our training workshops developed for faculty and staff.

In addition, CU Denver Architecture boasts one of the most diverse undergraduate BS Arch programs in the country, with over 50% minority students. To better serve these students, as mentioned earlier, we have modified our curriculum to better prepare graduates for applying to either our own M. Arch program, or to other top M. Arch programs around the country. We also work hard to increase access from our BS program to our M. Arch program by offering an increasingly robust set of financial aid and scholarship packages.

Working with the JEDI Subcommittee of AIA Colorado, we are formalizing a new relationship with Denver Public Schools, one of the most diverse and largest school districts in the country, that increases awareness and amplifies access to the profession of architecture. To help with this, we have just recently hired a new Undergraduate Recruitment Officer who is dedicated to the College of Architecture of Planning. We have never had a person in the role before.

We proudly and actively work with local two-year community colleges, like Arapaho Community College and Community College of Denver, to establish articulation agreements that create a smooth and transparent pathway for transfer students to move from community college, to our four-year BS program, to our M. Arch program. Students can complete the entire path in six years.

Stimulate the generation of new knowledge.

Through launching LoDo Lab in the Architecture Department, the Chair of the Department, Marc Swackhamer, has offered a number of faculty members from within and outside the department a weekly platform for research discussion, critique, and brainstorming. This interdisciplinary laboratory serves as a vehicle for discourse and research sharing that serves to keep research moving forward, to encourage publication, to support grant-writing, and to connect faculty with one another.

The Dean of the College, Nan Ellin, provides an annual competitive seed grant that helps catalyze faculty research in the college.

To repeat a point from above, we encourage our full-time faculty to teach elective seminars, lecture courses, and studios that align with their research interests. This investment by graduate students in our faculty members' research accelerates the work and provides a catalyst for insuring momentum is maintained in the work. Students in our program are intimately aware of and involved in faculty research efforts.

Protect the public interest.

With our architecture program, the only accredited program in the State of Colorado, located in the heart of Downtown Denver, we are invested in and inextricably tied to the community of Denver. We

run studios with real clients in the city and in the greater Colorado region that examine issues of great importance and interest to the public. We've recently offered studios with Anschutz Medical Campus School of Medicine to design a new health clinic in an underrepresented neighborhood of Aurora, CO. We've recently run a studio to design and build a set of new bike shelters on our own Auraria Campus. We've run studios to design new affordable housing with the City of Denver. Soon, we will offer a studio that explores development of a new tech center the heart of Denver. We've worked on local library projects, Denver water projects, and many projects in rural parts of Colorado with local communities. Public interest design is central to our mission as a department and as a college.

- V. **Appendix** (*include revised curricula, syllabi, and one-page CVs or bios of new administrators and faculty members; syllabi should reference which NAAB SPC a course addresses. Provide three examples of low-pass student work for SPCs in the following cases--if there are any SPCs that have not been met for two consecutive visits, or if there are three not-met SPCs in the same realm in the last visit--as required in the Instructions.*)

University of Colorado Denver, 2020 Update: Must include student work evidence for B.2, B.6, and B.7: Student work for B.2, B.6, and B.7 is included in the folders for this Intern Report. The Narrative was stated to be satisfied by the Two-year IPR.

