

Temple University, Tyler School of Art and Architecture
NAAB Optional Response to VTR August 31, 2023

We thank the visiting team for the review and comments of the Visiting Team following the NAAB Virtual Team Visit, March 15-17, 2023. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a context for three conditions found by the team to be 'not met' at the time of the visit.

PC.4 History and Theory

Since the last NAAB accreditation, we have been working on strategic goals across the Tyler undergraduate and graduate architecture programs. The architecture faculty serves seven programs (approximately 400 students) and our goals for continuous improvement for all programs are integrated and addressed in a manner that is manageable and consistent. Two important transitions are in process for the history and theory of architecture course sequence in the M Arch program and coordinated in relation to the programs as a whole.

- 1- In recent years, the history and theory of architecture curriculum has been addressed on a course-by-course basis, and more recently we have begun to discuss and plan the relationship of curricular content across all courses in the sequence. At the time of the visit, we had identified key courses in the curriculum to address curricular changes and content coordination across the courses. At this time, necessary changes have been identified and will be implemented in the next few years.
- 2- Our programs in architecture, including the M ARCH degree program, have grown substantially since the last accreditation. As we hire new full time faculty, we are attentive to the long term needs of our programs and the balance between adjunct and full time faculty. To serve programs, full time faculty hiring focused on substantial curricular needs in the area of building technology. More recently, two new faculty were hired in key content areas of the history and theory of architecture. Now, with a full cohort of full time faculty to oversee the history and theory of architecture courses, guidance and coordination of courses in this area is now underway.

4.3 Evaluation of Preparatory Education

The visiting teams comments are helpful in understanding how to provide more clarity for incoming students. Our evaluation of student preparatory education process is compliant and consistent with NAAB requirements and those of Temple University and Tyler School of Art and Architecture. The process is coordinated between admissions and advising staff and program faculty. We assess student preparedness for our programs and NAAB requirements.

- All students are required to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited school or university. Placement into the 90 credit / three year track or the 60 credit / 2 year track is determined upon admission. In order to assure all coursework is covered, we assess preparedness in relation to our BS Architecture + Master of Architecture, 4+2 course sequence.
- Our three year track students take 30 credits of preparatory work and join the two year track students for the final 60 credits.
- All NAAB criteria are addressed in the final 60 credits of the program. The "NAAB Checklist" was used for the 2014 NAAB conditions, and we still use it to evaluate students in the 3-year track who have advanced standing (between 60 and 90 credits).

6.5 Admissions and Advising

Our admissions and advising processes are compliant and consistent with NAAB requirements and those of Temple University, Tyler School of Art and Architecture and the Graduate School. The visiting team report gives us guidance about clarity of the process that will be helpful for improving our processes. It is important to note, with reference to the visiting team's comment under 6.5.e "there is no mention of how diversity factors in the admissions procedures," that our admissions procedures are compliant with University policies and practices. We are fully committed to continuing to recruit, educate and serve our diverse student body even as we are assessing our admissions procedures in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling about diversity in university admissions.

