

November 13, 2025

Sabah Randhawa, Ph.D.  
President  
Western Washington University  
516 High Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Dr. Randhawa:

On behalf of the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB), I am pleased to inform you that the Board acted at its October 23 – 24, 2025 meeting to accredit the *Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning and Sustainable Development* degree at Western Washington University for a seven-year term, effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2032. As the Program has an exemplary record, the accreditation period granted is the longest term possible under current PAB rules.

Given this action, the Program will be scheduled for its next accreditation review during the 2031- 2032 academic year; the Self-Study Report will be due in 2031. PAB reserves the right to change this to an earlier time as a result of new or additional information, changes in the activities of the Program, or changes needed in the accreditation review schedule. The Program will be notified of any change in advance of the time of the next review.

In its report, the Site Visit Team noted many areas of excellence; the Program should be proud of its accomplishments. More specifically, the Site Visit Team found: A noteworthy Diversity Strategic Plan, created by the Diversity and Student Outreach Committee, that guides activities, including an annual diversity workshop; a niche specialization in Tribal and Indigenous Community Planning; and high student engagement in the profession through a variety of activities and events, including hands-on, experiential projects, professional internships, the Urban Transitions Studio, and the Western Urban Planners Club.

The Board encourages the university to continue investing in the program's growth by ensuring it remains well-supported and positioned to reinforce student confidence, foster academic excellence, and expand opportunities for specializations. Based on the meeting with the Program's representative, the Board assessed the following criteria as met: 2B2 / Climate of Inclusiveness; and, 2C / Student Advising, Services and Support.

If an accredited program undergoes a substantive change, it is obligated to provide written notification thereof to PAB. Substantive changes are defined in the PAB Policies and Procedures Manual, are typically reported via the Annual Report, and include, but are not limited to: a new degree offering, a significant change in curriculum requirements, credit hours, and/or the method of delivery of courses; a significant change in enrollment or faculty count or demographics; or the appointment of a program administrator who does not have an educational background or substantial experience in planning. The Board may, at its discretion, request additional information. If PAB determines that a program may no longer be in substantial compliance with any accreditation standard, it may initiate an interim review to reconsider the Program's accreditation status. Additional information about substantive changes is available on our website ([www.planningaccreditationboard.org](http://www.planningaccreditationboard.org)).

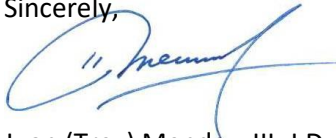


Planning  
Accreditation  
Board

**In accordance with the recognition standards of the Council for Higher Education (CHEA) and PAB policy, PAB is required to inform the public of the reason(s) for the accrediting organization's accreditation actions in a timely and readily accessible manner, including the institutional or program comments, if any. This means that the information found in the enclosed document will be posted to the PAB website 60 days from the date of the board meeting (December 22, 2025). Please review this material as it will be publicly posted.** The Program has the opportunity to provide brief comments related to the information posted on the PAB website and these comments will be posted to the site along with PAB's determination. If the Program finds the information misleading or incorrect as it relates to the accreditation action, the Program should notify PAB's Executive Director within 14 days of receipt of this letter so that, if necessary, the matter may be resolved by PAB before the 60-day review period expires.

PAB appreciates the commitment and dedication to quality planning education demonstrated by your participation in the accreditation process. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact PAB Executive Director Jesmarie Johnson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juan Mendez, III, J.D.", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Juan (Trey) Mendez, III, J.D.  
PAB Chair  
Principal Attorney  
Mendez Law Firm  
647 E. St. Charles Street  
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Copies:

Brad Johnson, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President  
Teena Gabrielson, Ph.D., Dean, College of the Environment  
Tamara Laninga, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Program Director

Enclosure: Public Information – Accreditation Actions

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION – ACCREDITATION ACTIONS**

The following information will be posted to the PAB website on the “All Accredited Programs” page.

### **Western Washington University**

Last Accreditation Cycle: 2024 - 2025

Next Accreditation Cycle: 2031 - 2032

Progress Report: Not Applicable [due date]

### **Summary of Recent Actions**

Program granted 7-year accreditation

PAB accreditation indicates that the Program has undergone an external review and substantially meets the PAB standards and criteria. Programs granted accreditation demonstrated conformity with PAB Standards after a thorough review from the Board. PAB bases its decisions on the overall quality of the program, its performance relative to its mission and strategic plan, and its performance relative to PAB’s five standards, which encompass a total of 29 criteria and 9 curriculum sub-criteria. When PAB determines that a Program does not fully meet a criterion or curriculum sub-criterion, the Program is encouraged to take steps to improve in that area and provide information to PAB on its efforts, either during the next accreditation review or in an interim progress report.

The Planning Accreditation Board has required the Program to address issues in the following areas:

Not Applicable

This information is a summary only. Please consult the school directly for in-depth information regarding programs, course offerings, and compliance with PAB standards. Programs should also be consulted directly for additional information on issues and areas of improvement identified during an accreditation review, and the actions that the school is taking to address these areas. If the Program has provided a response to any of the issues cited above, please see below for a link to the response.

Program Response \_\_\_\_\_ [Link]