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Important Dates

June 30, 2020

Draft Self-Study Report due for programs with fall 2020 Site Visits

July 1, 2020

Progress Reports due, if applicable

September 15, 2020

Draft Self-Study Report due for programs with spring 2020 Site Visits

September — November

Fall Site Visits

November 5-8, 2020

PAB Fall Board Meeting at the [ACSP National Conference](#)

December 1, 2020

Annual Fee due

January 31, 2021

Annual Report due for all programs

Letter from PAB Chair, Professor Connie Ozawa

Colleagues,

As we enter our fourth month of varying stages of COVID-19 stay home orders, we are faced with the justifiable outrage that has erupted in more than 150 cities across the country following the tragic killing of George Floyd and so many others before him. It is sad beyond words that we find ourselves still in this place of violent racism and injustice. PAB believes diversity, equity and inclusion are central values of planning. As an organization, we will continue to promote and encourage a systemic approach to diversity and multi-cultural understanding within accredited planning programs. Accredited Programs are responsible for educating ethically and culturally competent planners and establishing access points for educational opportunities to learn and interact with people of varying backgrounds and perspectives. We share the grief and sense of responsibility expressed by the [Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning](#) and [American Planning Association](#). We look forward to continuing dialogue and collaboration to educate and support current and future competent planners in their efforts to create safe spaces and places for all, but especially Black, Indigenous and people of color.

During these past few months, PAB has been deliberating and carefully considering its options in fulfilling our responsibility as an accreditation organization during the COVID-19 pandemic. The eight Board members and two staff have experienced many of the same challenges and disruptions as you—children at home, endless Zoom meetings, additional contingency planning and policymaking for an uncertain fall term and beyond. As a national organization, the widely different geographies and realities of our member schools, organizations, and volunteers create an additional layer of complexity.

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First Accredited Online Degree Program

Author: Thomas Hawkins, Director of the UF Online MURP

The University of Florida's (UF) Department of Urban and Regional Planning launched a fully online master's degree program in 2012. In 2019, the on-campus and online delivery of the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) degree were reviewed for accreditation. At its fall 2019 meeting, the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) granted both modalities a 7-year accreditation term. University of Florida's online planning degree is the first to be accredited by PAB.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the usefulness—and even necessity—of online education is obvious. But as recently as 2012, online education was largely uncharted territory. Over the last seven years, we have learned several lessons about training professional planners online.

First, the basics of a strong online program are the same as for an on-campus program. We use the same course goals, student learning objectives, and assessments in our courses without regard to how we deliver them. The basics of strong pedagogy—clearly connecting objectives to learning materials and assessments—hold true no matter what tools we use to communicate with students.

Also, our online teaching has improved our on-campus teaching. As instructors, we have been more aggressive in developing online materials—such as recorded lectures and online assessments—because of our online program. But these materials allow us to provide a richer experience for our on-campus students as well.



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Virtual Board Meeting — Spring 2020



Connie Ozawa, Ph.D.

Alex Lieber, AICP

Ed Goetz, Ph.D.

Dawn G. Terkla, Ed.D.

Mitch Thrower, CPA

Bristol Ellington, AICP

Zenia Kotval, Ph.D., FAICP

David Salazar, FAICP

Jesmarie Johnson

Jaclyn Hade

Additional details are available on the PAB website within the [Summary of Recent Actions and Accredited Planning Programs](#) directory.

During the Board Meeting, PAB granted accreditation to the following programs:

- ◆ **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
Master in City Planning
- ◆ **Pratt Institute**
Master of Science in City and Regional Planning
- ◆ **Portland State University**
Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- ◆ **University of Iowa**
Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning
- ◆ **University of Maryland, College Park**
Master of Community Planning
- ◆ **University of Memphis**
Master of City and Regional Planning

Letter from the Chair, continued

Our decisions are based on the recognition that our primary responsibility is to ensure quality education in planning while being attentive to the differing realities, resource needs and capabilities of programs. We also have a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our volunteer Site Visitors. After thoughtful consideration in light of these parameters:



(PAB Chair, Connie Ozawa, Ph.D.)

- PAB will continue forward with the existing accreditation review schedule
- All fall and spring Site Visits will be conducted virtually (unless exceptional conditions prevail or a dramatic change in the COVID-19 situation occurs). Many institutional and programmatic accreditors shifted to virtual visits for spring 2020 and will continue into the fall
- Through virtual Site Visits, we can better manage the health risks to our Site Visitors and Programs. Site Visit Teams will be organized in the summer and fall. Willingness to conduct online meetings will be a critical criterion for participation. All Site Visit Teams and Programs will be trained on the new procedures and protocols
- As always, exceptional situations will be considered and adjustments will be made as appropriate

We recognize these are challenging times and the financial implications related to COVID-19 will be vast; therefore, PAB has waived the 2% Annual Fee increase for accredited programs for Fiscal Year 2021.

A final note, the COVID-19 situation and the peaceful protests calling for racial justice and equity have forced us as academics and practitioners to reflect on - the strengths and weaknesses of new technologies in our work; the challenges of participatory processes, both in teaching and implementation; and how we can do better to create diverse, equitable and inclusive safe spaces and places. In fall 2020, PAB will embark on its regular review of its accreditation standards and criteria. Details on the process and timeline will be shared in the fall. We look forward to hearing ideas of how the standards and criteria might be modified to reflect current technological innovations and changing opportunities.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer.
Connie Ozawa, Ph.D.

Thank You Spring 2020 Site Visit Teams

University of Virginia Site Visit



(Above: Elbert Waters, Susan Bradbury, Daniel Hess)

SVT Chairs:

Alan Artibise, Ph.D., CIP
Eugenie Birch, Ph.D., FAICP
Karl Kim, Ph.D.
Michael Burayidi, Ph.D.
Siddhartha Sen, Ph.D.
Susan Bradbury, Ph.D.

Team Members:

Clinton Andrews, Ph.D., AICP
Carol Barrett, FAICP
John Betancur, Ph.D.
Mary Kopaskie Brown, AICP
Robert Cowell Jr., AICP, CNU-A
Susan Eddy, AICP, MRTPI
Daniel Hess, Ph.D.
Lucie Laurian, Ph.D.
Karin Morris, AICP
Barry Nocks, Ph.D., FAICP
Elbert Waters, MCP, JD
Stacey S. White, Ph.D.

Western Washington University Site Visit



(Above: Mary Kopaskie Brown, Michael Burayidi, Stacey S. White)

First Accredited Online Degree Program, continued

In addition, we have found that our online and on-campus students learn from one another. About one in ten students earning a UF planning degree online is international. More than half of our online students are within the United States but not in the state of Florida. The online program has allowed military personnel, parents, and others who cannot relocate to a town with a university to earn a master's degree in planning. All online students are employed, and most are already working in a planning or a planning-related field. When these online students and our on-campus students engage in class discussions, these conversations reflect the diverse life and professional experience of *all* our students.

Finally, we have had to break ground to teach some skills for which no online-teaching model previously existed. Our planning studio course is the quintessential example of this work. A faculty member and a full-time planning practitioner, Dr. Laurel Harbin AICP, co-teach this course. Students research a planning problem in the same way that many practitioners do these days—from afar. Through public records requests, analyzing GIS data, and even Google Streetview, students collect data about a community. Through weekly videoconferencing meetings, instructors provide intensive feedback. Students present their ultimate findings in a live videoconferencing session to their peers and to UF faculty.

We believe that urban and regional planners have the ability and responsibility to ready our communities to meet the world's toughest challenges. Our curriculum prepares our students to address pressing needs, from challenges like sea-level rise to opportunities like smart cities technologies. With an online program delivery, we have expanded our instruction beyond our physical campus in Gainesville, Florida. This advancement has increased access to planning knowledge for our students and for all those people and communities our students will go on to serve in their careers.

Additional Information

For more detail on University of Florida's innovative online program, visit:
PAB's [Noteworthy Practices - Other](#), or the [Program's webpage](#).

Noteworthy Practices

PAB showcases a collection of notable actions programs have taken toward meeting the standards. If you haven't checked out this valuable resource, it is available on the [PAB website](#).

The following programs reviewed in fall 2019 were recognized by the Board for their actions taken toward meeting the PAB standards.

- ◆ San Diego State University
- ◆ University of California, Los Angeles
- ◆ University of Florida

Congratulations FAICP Class of 2020!

Site Visitors

- ◆ Jerry Anthony, FAICP
- ◆ Alissa Barber Torres, FAICP
- ◆ Jennifer Cowley, FAICP
- ◆ Kyle Ezell, FAICP
- ◆ Justin Hollander, FAICP
- ◆ Bonnie J. Johnson, FAICP
- ◆ Kathleen McCabe, FAICP
- ◆ Scot D. Siegel, FAICP
- ◆ Elizabeth Via-Gossman, FAICP

Self-Study Report Manual Update

The [Self-Study Report Manual](#) has been recently updated to further clarify standards and criteria rationale.

Resources

- ◆ [2017 Accreditation Standards](#)
- ◆ [PAB Website](#)
- ◆ [Data Library](#)
- ◆ [News & Events](#)
- ◆ [PAB Fee Schedule FY 2021](#)



Board Member News

Congratulations to **David Salazar** on being inducted into the AICP College of Fellows!



We are pleased to announce that **Bristol Ellington**, AICP Planning Practitioner Member, and **Mitch Thrower**, APA Public Member, have been reappointed to PAB. Both of their terms expire November 30, 2023.



Report on the Value of Accreditation

The Task Force on Innovation and Communication in Planning Education continued its efforts and sought to define the role accreditation plays in planning. This report summarizes the Task Force's findings concerning the value of accreditation with the aim of contributing to the wider discussion of the value of planning and elevating the value of PAB accredited programs and degrees.

The Task Force report on Innovation is also available on the [PAB website](#).



Thank you to all survey respondents and session participants!

Planning Education and Digital Evolution CM 0.75

At the 2020 APA Conference, Clinton J. Andrews, AICP, Alex Lieber, AICP, and Weiping Wu, Ph.D. presented the session Planning Education and Digital Evolution to 900 attendees. The session examined what planning education needs to provide in order to prepare planners for a 21st century technology-focused world. The session is available for \$15 for APA members and \$30 for nonmembers at the link above.

Didn't get a chance to participate and would like to? PAB will host this session again at the [2020 ACSP Conference](#).