



History of Accreditation in Planning Education

The Planning Accreditation Board began its accreditation activities in 1984, succeeding a planning degree recognition program started in 1960 by the National Education Development Committee (NEDC) of the American Institute of Planners (AIP). The recognition program was begun to assess graduates' qualifications to take the AIP examination, but expanded into assessing the quality of planning education.

In 1980, it was determined that full-fledged accreditation, involving site visits by evaluators in the field of planning, was necessary to effectively assess quality and to encourage academic excellence. A Task Force on Accreditation was established to prepare the founding standards and procedures, which were adopted in 1984.

Since 1989, PAB has revised the accreditation standards to reflect current planning practice and education. In all instances, it adopted the revisions after wide review and participation by the educational and practitioner communities.

Collaboration and Sponsoring Organizations

PAB is sponsored jointly by three organizations: the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), the American Planning Association (APA) and its Professional Institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). This collaboration recognizes that all parties to the planning enterprise - practitioners, educators, students, elected officials, and citizens - have a vital stake in the quality of the nation's programs of planning education.

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)

ACSP is the national membership organization of educational programs which award degrees in planning. Formed in 1959, the organization has over 120 fulltime and affiliated member schools. The central purpose of ACSP is to provide a means for planning schools to improve education through mutual exchange and support. ACSP has an annual conference, publishes the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* and *The Guide to Undergraduate and Graduate Education in Urban and Regional Planning*, conducts surveys of the state of the field, and provides information to potential students. ACSP has a long history of involvement in all matters related to the accreditation of planning programs.

American Planning Association (APA)

APA is the national membership organization of professional practitioners, educators, students, elected officials, and citizens who share a common concern for APA's primary objective: to advance the art and science of planning for the comprehensive development of communities, regions, states, and the nation. Advancement of the art and science of planning can occur only if the planning profession is comprised of individuals who are well trained, competent, and highly motivated.

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

AICP, the Professional Institute of the American Planning Association, provides recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice. AICP certification is contingent upon meeting certain education and experience requirements, and upon passing a written examination. The linkage between AICP and the accreditation of planning programs is direct and vital.