

Planning Education and Digital Evolution

Alex Lieber, AICP

Vice Chair, Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)

AKRF, Inc.

ACSP 2020 Annual Conference



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Introductions

Alex Lieber, AICP

Vice Chair, Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)

AKRF, Inc.

Clinton Andrews, PhD PE AICP

Professor and Associate Dean for Research

Rutgers University

Weiping Wu, PhD

Professor and Director

Columbia University

Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)

- **Mission:** *To promote excellence among planning programs and ensure high quality education for future urban planners.*
- *8 Board Members, appointed by APA, AICP and ACSP*
- *75 master's and 16 bachelor's degrees at 79 North American Universities*



Innovation and Communication in Planning Education Task Force

- Representatives from PAB, APA, ACSP, and a student representative
- PAB Goals (2017-2022 Strategic Plan): *Promote and encourage a culture of innovation in program content and delivery*
- Report on Innovation (2019)
 - Emerging issues facing planning education and issues that planners must be prepared for in a professional setting
 - Are planning programs adjusting to changes in the profession and the evolving role of planners?
 - Are there innovations in the profession or new skills that planners may require that are not being effectively taught in planning schools?

Report on Innovation

- Emerging Trends in Planning Practice and Education
 - Trends in Higher Education—technology/distance learning; “return on investment”; financial pressures and decreased funding
 - Trends in the Planning Profession—uncertain and contentious political world; engagement in broader political and social issues; need for enhanced cultural competencies; new technology

- Available on the PAB website News & Events section:
<https://planningaccreditationboard.org/index.php?s=NewsEve>

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- ***New technology** is being made available to planners and becoming more prominent in the field. GIS is now considered a core competency for planners, and the use of social media and data analytics are growing. **Critically, the potential of technological innovations is a major motivation for many students interested in planning.***
- How can accredited programs better train their students? What are the knowledge, skills, and values necessary in this 21st century technology-focused world?

Planning Education and Digital Evolution

- Balance of soft skills and hard skills
 - *Planners require enhanced cultural competencies and the ability to work with marginalized populations.*
 - *Communication and "storytelling," negotiation and consensus building, and collaborative skills ... to better prepare planners to work in their communities.*
- Emerging use of technology in the field
- Long term trends and effects of online/remote learning

PAB Standards Revisions

- Standards are revisited every 5 years to ensure their effectiveness and relevance to the profession.
- Recognize that improvements will always be desired; some minor or editorial, others more substantive.
- The amendment process takes time: almost TWO years to draft revisions and receive two sets of comments from the constituent groups.
- Ensures input from stakeholder groups in the process
- 2023 Accreditation Standards Review Task Force



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PAB Standards Revisions

October 2020 – February 2021	Background, data gathering on existing standards. Compilation and analysis of data to inform first draft of standards
October – November	PAB Public Forums via Zoom
February – April 2021	PAB Standards Taskforce development of draft standards
April – June 2021	PAB review and comment period for TF draft standards. PAB approves internal draft 1 of standards. TF revisions as necessary.
June 2021	PAB introduces draft 1 of standards.
June – July 2021	First 30-day comment period (All comments posted to PAB website) Advisory recommendations from AICP Commission in consultation with the APA Board, and the ACSP Governing Board submitted to PAB.
July – September 2021	PAB Standards Taskforce review comments and develop draft 2 of standards. PAB reviews and approves internal draft 2 of standards (September)
September 2021 (APA fall leadership Meetings) October 21 – 24, 2021 (ACSP conference)	PAB introduces Draft 2 of Amendment to Accreditation Standards
December 2021	Second 30-day comment period. (All comments posted to PAB website) Advisory recommendations from AICP Commission in consultation with the APA Board, and the ACSP Governing Board submitted to PAB.
January – April 2022	PAB Board review of comments and finalization of standards. PAB reviews and approves final Accreditation Standards (April)
April/May 2022	PAB reports to sponsoring organizations that it has approved the accreditation standards and shares final document
January 2023	Effective date of implementation of Standards



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PAB Standards Revisions

2023 Accreditation Standards Review—Zoom Public Sessions

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Thursday, October 29, 10:30 a.m. – Noon Central Time Zone

2. Accreditation Standards 2 & 3: Students and Faculty

Saturday, November 7, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Central Time Zone

3. Accreditation Standards 1 & 5: Strategic Planning and Progress, Governance

Thursday, November 12, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Central Time Zone

4. Accreditation Standard 4: Curriculum

Thursday, November 19, Noon – 1:30 p.m. Central Time Zone

5. Open Topics

Tuesday, November 24, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Central Time Zone

Forum registration available at www.planningaccreditationboard.org

All input is welcome at any of the forums.



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