

Site Visitor Training

PAB Standards and Criteria



P A B

Planning
Accreditation
Board

PAB Standards

1. Strategic Planning and Progress
2. **Students**
3. Faculty
4. Curriculum
5. Governance



Standard 2: Students Preamble

The Program shall attract a sufficient number of well-qualified students from diverse backgrounds and shall adequately prepare, support, and advise these students to pursue and contribute successfully to the field of urban and regional planning. Accordingly, the Program shall demonstrate that its students upon graduation possess the knowledge, skills, and values that will enable them to secure professional employment, to perform effectively as planners, and to participate meaningfully in the planning profession. Among the foremost responsibilities of the Program are to reject discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, and other classes protected by law - within the Program itself - and to advance diversity and a culture of inclusion among the planning profession's future practitioners in the Program, particularly with regard to historically underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities.

Students Criteria

2A. Student Quality

2B. Student Diversity

2C. Student Advising, Services, and Support

2D. Student Engagement in the Profession



Criterion 2A / Student Quality

The Program shall admit students whose educational attainment, previous academic performance, work experience, aptitude, maturity, and motivation indicate potential for success in their studies and in professional practice. Toward that end, the Program shall establish admission standards that reflect the institution's policies and the Program's goals, and the Program shall apply those standards fairly and consistently. The Program shall document its admission standards and the extent to which its current students meet or exceed those standards.

Criterion 2A / Student Quality

- Admitted students should have the potential to succeed
- Admission standards
 - Published
 - Reflect the institution's policies
 - Fair and consistent application
- Data collection
 - Students meet standards

Criterion 2B / Student Diversity

Consistent with applicable law and institutional policy, the Program shall establish strategic goals that demonstrate an active commitment to attracting and retaining a diverse student population, and are informed by the characteristics of the populations that the Program's graduates generally serve. The Program shall collect and analyze data on student demographics to inform and enhance its efforts to identify effective and appropriate methodologies for achieving diversity in its student body. Furthermore, the Program shall establish assessment mechanisms for each of its strategic goals that are focused on achieving diversity. Because diversity is not a static concept, and because all planning programs should seek to improve the diversity of the graduates entering the profession, the Program shall provide evidence of continuous improvement in achieving its diversity-related strategic goals.

Criterion 2B / Student Diversity

- Commitment
- Definitions differ
 - Mission, goals and objectives
 - Not limited to race
- Plan
 - Implemented, assessed, refined
- Data
 - Outcomes

Criterion 2C / Student Advising, Services, and Support

The Program shall provide students with competent academic advising, progress appraisal, and career guidance, as well as access within the institution to any personal counseling that students might need. Furthermore, the Program or its institution shall provide students with career services that assist students in securing suitable internships and jobs. The Program shall also support its students by providing them with financial aid opportunities that are sufficient in number and amount to achieve the Program's strategic goals for a well-qualified and diverse student body. The Program shall publish its criteria for the allocation of such financial aid.

Criterion 2C / Student Advising, Services, and Support

- Academic advising
- Progress appraisal
- Career guidance
- Career services
 - Internships and jobs
- Financial aid
 - Published criteria

Criterion 2D / Student Engagement in the Profession

The Program shall provide opportunities for student engagement in the profession, including but not limited to participation in a planning student organization affiliated with the Program, in the local chapter of the American Planning Association, in professional mentoring programs, in other professional societies and activities, and in work, internships, community-based planning activities, or project experiences that develop their skills as planners. The Program shall also promote socialization into the planning profession by encouraging students to attend APA's planning conferences and other events in which students might interact with professional planners from a variety of backgrounds.

Criterion 2D / Student Engagement in the Profession

- Opportunities
 - Formal: studios; mentorship programs, internships, etc.
 - Informal: student planning association; networking opportunities, etc.
- Support
 - Resources for travel to APA conferences

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