

Section 9. Standards Revision and Accreditation Review Process

The PAB involves each of its constituencies and the public in reviewing all aspects of its accreditation standards. Proposals for amendments can be submitted to the PAB for consideration at any time. The PAB itself will consider the need for such revisions on an ongoing basis as part of its regular duties. Final approval, authority, and responsibility for revising the accreditation policies, procedures, and standards, however, rests with the PAB.

9.1 Proposals for Amendments and Revisions

Proposals for amending accreditation standards shall first be submitted to the PAB for review and recommendation. If the PAB recommends an amendment to the standards, the PAB will notify the AICP president and the ACSP president. Notices regarding the proposed amendment will be: placed on the PAB website and in APA/AICP and ACSP publications; directed to administrators of accredited and non-accredited programs and their chief executive officers; and directed to other specialized accreditation bodies recognized by CHEA. All parties will be invited to submit their comments within thirty (30) days of the respective notices. At the end of the thirty (30) days those comments regarding the proposed amendment will be placed on the PAB website.

Following review of these comments, the PAB may revise the proposed amendment before forwarding it to the AICP Commission, the APA Board, the ACSP Governing Board, and placing it on the PAB website. A second thirty (30) day comment period follows, at the end of which the PAB will consider advisory recommendations from the AICP Commission in consultation with the APA Board, and the ACSP Governing Board, as well as any other comments received. PAB may further revise the proposed amendment prior to taking official action for final Board approval.

9.2 Effect of Amendments and Revisions

No approved amendment or revision shall affect the accreditation status of any school prior to the submittal of its next application for accreditation. The accreditation standards that shall apply to a program with Candidacy Status are those that were in effect at the time that the application was filed.

9.3 Ongoing Standards Review and Revision

PAB periodically reviews and revises the standards by which it evaluates degree programs for accreditation and the procedures by which it carries out this responsibility. Comprehensive review and development of standards shall occur approximately every five years, but may occur more frequently at the Board's discretion.

Any comments that are received regarding the standards, whether formally during the standards review process, or informally through unsolicited submission at any time, are shared with the PAB Standards Committee and collected/reviewed as part of the subsequent five-year process.

Whenever substantive changes in its standards are considered by PAB, changes in standards are made available for review and comment by the public for two separate 30-day periods, once in a preliminary draft phase and once before final adoption. The revisions to the PAB standards will apply for Self-Study Reports due in the subsequent calendar year, unless a specific implementation date is specified at the time of adoption.

An amendment to the 2012 Standards was adopted in 2017.

9.4 Ongoing Review of Accreditation Practices

Standards for recognition by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) require that accrediting agencies demonstrate ongoing review of accreditation practices. Such review should include examination of the accreditor's value to the institution and impact of its standards and procedures thereon.

PAB regularly reviews its operations to ensure both responsiveness and accountability to its constituents as well as efficiency and effectiveness of its services to institutions or programs. In addition, PAB reviews its value to institutions and the impact of its standards and procedures approximately every five years.