



Planning Accreditation Board Newsletter

2025 Planners' Salary and Benefits Survey Takeaways

In a survey of nearly 6,000 city and regional planners, a little over half said they hold AICP certification. Graduating from a PAB-accredited master's program was a significant predictor of AICP certification. About 68% of planners with a PAB-accredited masters were AICP-certified (vs. 59% with a non-PAB masters). Years in the job also matters. Only about one in five planners with fewer than five years in the field were AICP-certified, compared to three out of four planners with 15 years of experience or longer.

Holding years of experience even, level of education makes a difference. It isn't just that older, more experienced planners happened to have more degrees. And, importantly, even after controlling for experience, the PAB master's carried an advantage over a non-PAB master's, with graduates from accredited programs twice as likely to be certified.

Finally, certified planners earn substantially more—about \$30,000 a year more on average—than planners who were not AICP-certified.

Read more: [APA's 2025 Planners' Salary and Benefits Survey results](#)



PAB is looking to highlight the meaningful contributions and outstanding accomplishments of emerging planners and accredited programs. We invite employers and accredited programs to nominate students, recent graduates (last three years), and program accomplishments to be featured in

Accreditation Demystified: Separating Fact from Fiction

Q: What is the minimum credit hour requirement for an accredited degree?

A: PAB does not require a minimum number of credit hours.

Q: Do I need to notify PAB of any credit hour changes?

A: If the Program plans to make a significant change in curriculum requirements and/or credit hours then a notice of [substantive change](#) should be submitted. The Program should also include if the change would result in $\geq 25\%$ of required credit hours to be offered through distance, correspondence or other alternate modality. Programs are not required to notify PAB of routine minor curriculum adjustments, such as 1-2 credit hour changes or modification of a single course.

Myth Busting Starts With You

Got questions about accreditation? Heard something that doesn't quite add up? We're here to set the record straight! Submit your burning questions and we may answer in the *Accreditation Demystified* section in our next newsletter. Share your questions [here](#).



Congratulations to the following programs recently recognized by the Board for their actions taken toward meeting the PAB standards.

- Appalachian State University
- Michigan State University

- Rowan University
- University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Wayne State University

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 here on the [PAB website](#).



Welcome New Board Member

Ray Trapp

APA Public Member appointee (2026-2029)
Vice President of Advancement; Boys & Girls Clubs
of the Greater Triad

Ray Trapp is a public sector and nonprofit leader with extensive experience in planning, government, and higher education. He currently serves as Vice President of Advancement for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Triad, where he leads fundraising, resource development, strategic partnerships, and external engagement to support regional growth and community development initiatives. [Read More](#)

Message from PAB Chair [Linda F. Tatum, FAICP](#)

Dear Planning Community:

My cup is full following the successful NPC26 in Detroit this spring and its record attendance of over 3,700 planners from around the nation and the globe! The conference provides a unique opportunity for PAB to engage and interact with key constituents—practicing planners, educators, and employers as well as the leadership of APA, AICP, and ASCP to confer on areas of mutual interest and benefit.



It is an honor to serve as Chair of the Planning Accreditation Board. An AICP appointee to the Board as a Planning Practitioner, I am in my second term. I am proud to have served as a member of PAB's Site Visitor Pool for more than 20 years, which grounded me in the values and benefit of planning program accreditation and the critical collaboration necessary between PAB and APA, AICP and ACSP to strengthen planning education and practice.

Coming off a year in which we amended the 2022 PAB Accreditation Standards to better define the goals and expectations placed upon programs of higher learning, while also taking into account the expected challenges to certain core values shared by much of our community at both a state and national level. The PAB supports diversity, equity and inclusion and has proactively worked to protect its value to our community. We took the time necessary to ensure the greatest amount of feedback from our core constituents and in 2026, PAB will initiate its standard 5-year review and update of the 2022 Accreditation Standards. I encourage each of you to participate in this effort to ensure that the accreditation process maintains a high standard of quality for planning programs while

providing flexibility for the unique character of programs and their focus on preparing planners as practitioners and leaders in their communities.

As we continue our work to strengthen the value and benefit of accreditation, I look forward to continuing to build upon several collaborative efforts we have underway with APA, AICP, and ACSP, and I welcome the opportunity to engage in conversations that will streamline the work, success, and membership value of each of our entities.

Summary of Recent Actions

Spring 2026 Board Meeting in Detroit



Board Members (left to right): Lois Takahashi, Ph.D., Deb Lawlor, FAICP, PP, Linda Tatum, FAICP, Weiping Wu, Ph.D., Rachael Panik, Ph.D., AICP, Bonnie Johnson, Ph.D., FAICP, Marin Clarkberg, Ph.D.

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

- **Georgia Institute of Technology**
Master of City and Regional Planning
- **Harvard University**
Master in Urban Planning
- **Michigan State University**
Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning
Master in Urban and Regional Planning
- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning
Master of Urban Planning
- **University of Illinois, Chicago**
Master of Urban Planning and Policy
- **University of Massachusetts at Amherst**
Master of Regional Planning
- **University of Pennsylvania**
Master of City Planning
- **Wayne State University**
Master of Urban Planning

Congratulations to the following programs granted initial accreditation effective January 1, 2027:

- **Appalachian State University**
Bachelor of Science in Community and Regional Planning

- **Northeastern University**
Master of Science in Urban Planning and Policy
- **Rowan University**
Bachelor of Science in Community and Environmental Planning

For a summary of recent actions or additional details, visit the PAB website, specifically the [News](#) and [Accredited Planning Programs](#) directory.

**PAB Board Member Bonnie Johnson, PhD, FAICP,
Named Book Review Editor of Journal of the
American Planning Association (JAPA)**

Read [APA's News Release](#) to learn more

Congratulations Bonnie!



Thank You Spring 2026 Site Visit Teams

With the assistance of 30 Site Visitors, 11 programs were reviewed at 10 institutions.

Interested in becoming a Site Visitor? [Learn more](#)

Site Visit Team Chairs

Clint Andrews, Ph.D., AICP
Steve Bourassa, Ph.D.
Tom Daniels, Ph.D.
Dawn Jourdan, Ph.D., AICP
Henry Renski, Ph.D.
George Rogers, Ph.D.
Brenda Scheer, FAIA, FAICP
Siddhartha Sen, Ph.D.
Fritz Steiner, Ph.D.
Curt Winkle, Ph.D.

Site Visit Team Members

Asha Agrawal, Ph.D.
Mitzi Barker, FAICP
Eran Ben-Joseph, Ph.D.
Jeffrey Brown, Ph.D.
Wayne Carlson, FAICP
Tim Chapin, Ph.D.
Robert Cowell Jr., AICP, CNU-A
Kristina Currans, Ph.D.
Casey Dawkins, Ph.D.
Jeannette Dinwiddie-Moore, FAICP
Bristol Ellington, AICP, ICMA-CM
Daniel Hess, Ph.D.
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani, Ph.D.,
AICP
Elizabeth Gossman, FAICP
Ralph Hall, Ph.D.
Justin Hollander, Ph.D., FAICP
George McGregor, AICP
Karin Morris, AICP
Janet Shull, AICP, CUD
Philip Walker, FAICP



San José State University Site Visit Team (left to right): Karin Morris, Steve Bourassa, Casey Dawkins

News From Our Partners

AICP Office Hours

Help your students get an edge in the job market with AICP certification and share the following information with them:



Join APA staff for one or all of our upcoming AICP Office Hours sessions to get your questions answered and connect with others preparing for the AICP exam. Members and nonmembers are welcome to attend the following events. Registration is required. Select the link below to register.

[Thursday, August 6, 2026 | Noon - 1:00 pm CT](#)

[Wednesday, September 9, 2026 | 2:00 - 3:00 pm CT *](#)

*Attention Ph.D. students! Attend the September session to learn how AICP certification enhances a versatile path beyond academia, strengthening your readiness for both planning practice and teaching careers.

Planning Accreditation Board
2334 W. Lawrence Ave Ste 209
Chicago, IL 60625

PAB sends periodic updates and newsletters to program administrators, Site Visitors, and others interested in the planning profession.

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