# Planning Accreditation Board NEWS

## Accreditation in Action



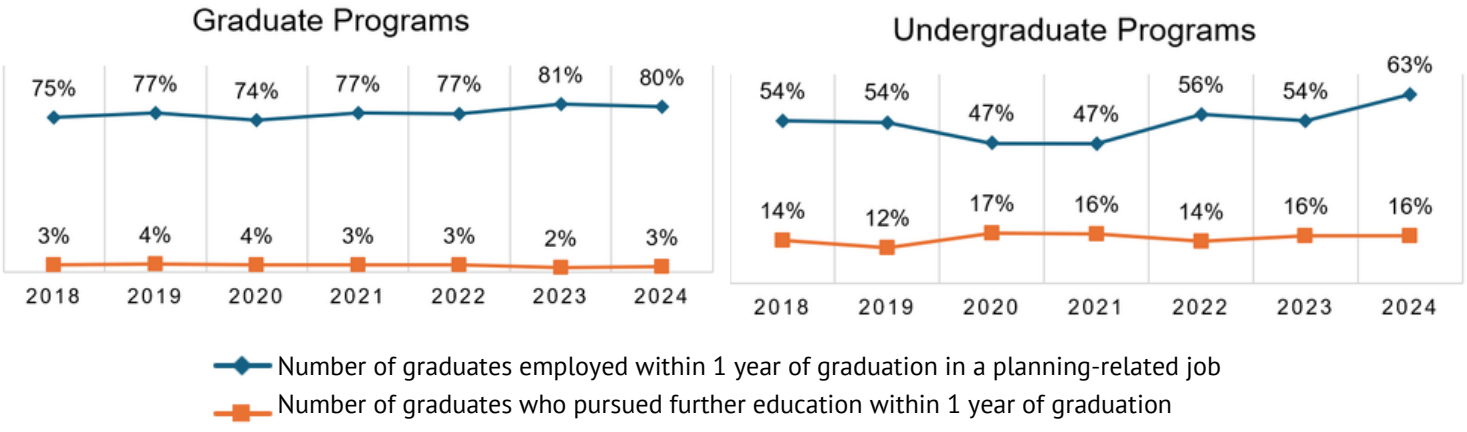
*"PAB accreditation has been fundamental to maintaining and preserving the Master of Science program in Urban Regional Planning at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Although the program is part of the school's name, School of Architecture & Planning, Architecture dominates due to their enrollment size, and the other disciplines inevitably have less visibility. Having PAB standards has been helpful to advocate for program resources and avoid program invisibility. This year we have grown enrollment surpassing our strategic planning objectives and solidified Planning's role in the school and the college as the "Rosetta Stone" science that helps the rest of the sciences and disciplines think beyond the building or product scale." - Esteban López Ochoa, Ph.D., Program Director*

The Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) accredits university planning programs across North America, validating their quality and alignment with pedagogical and professional standards. Through a rigorous and collaborative process, PAB helps programs strengthen curriculum, support student career success, and demonstrate value to employers and university leadership. PAB accreditation enhances visibility for the field and contributes to stronger, more resilient communities.

## Shareable Stats

### Employment by Graduating Class 2018 - 2024

Below is a comprehensive look at employment data for accredited master and bachelor programs for graduates from 2018 through 2024 that were employed in planning or pursued further education.




**What's happening across accredited planning programs?**

Stay tuned for the upcoming 2025 PAB Annual Report, with the latest data on students, faculty, and accredited programs. Data from previous reports is available on the PAB website under Resources & Publications.

# Accreditation Demystified



## Separating Fact from Fiction

**Q: Does PAB require a minimum of 5 full-time or equivalent faculty at accredited programs?**

A: No. PAB does not require a minimum of 5 full-time faculty. This requirement existed in the 2012 PAB Accreditation Standards and Criteria, but it was removed in the 2017 Accreditation Standards and Criteria.

**Q: Does PAB simply make up accreditation standards and tell programs how they must operate?**

A: Not quite. PAB Standards are developed through a structured, collaborative process that draws on input from educators, practitioners, the public and other stakeholders. The process includes research, stakeholder feedback, public comment and formal approval. Accreditation Standards are intended to establish a meaningful framework for quality - not dictate a one-size-fits-all approach. Programs have flexibility in how they demonstrate they meet the standards.

## Help Us Demystify Accreditation

Got questions about accreditation? We're here to help!
Submit your burning questions to PAB staff and we will answer them in our newsletter or on our LinkedIn page.

# Coming Soon

## Accreditation Standards Revision

Every five years, PAB undertakes a comprehensive review of its standards to ensure they are relevant, rigorous and aligned with current practice. This cycle ensures that we uphold minimum expectations for educational quality while being responsive to the needs and realities of the communities we serve. PAB will begin its next comprehensive standards revision process in 2027, and we're excited to invite broad participation from programs, faculty, students, and the public. Join us at our session, **Process and Feedback for Revising the PAB Standards for 2027** on October 9, 4:15- 6:15pm at the ACSP 2026 Conference. Board members will walk through the revision timeline, opportunities for public comment, answer questions, and listen to early feedback. If you're unable to attend, additional virtual opportunities will be available in the months ahead. We hope you'll join the conversation and help shape the future of planning accreditation.

| Standards Year | # of Standards (and Criteria) |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 11 (52) |
| 2012 | 7 (35) |
| 2017 | 5 (29) |
| 2022 Amended | 5 (29) |

## Did you know?

PAB reduced the number of standards from eleven in 2006 to five in 2017.

Follow us on LinkedIn for the latest news, updates, insights, and ways to get involved.

## Stay Connected With Us on LinkedIn!

www.planningaccreditationboard.org

# Congratulations & Thank You

## Outstanding Site Visitor Award Recipients!



**Tom Sanchez, Ph.D., AICP**
Professor
Texas A&M University



**Carol A. Rhea, FAICP**
[Retired] Managing Partner
Orion Planning and Design

## Interested in Becoming a PAB Site Visitor?

Make an impact, connect with colleagues, and gain a firsthand look at planning education across North America. Learn more at "**You Should Be a PAB Site Visitor!**" led by Professor Conroy, on 10/10 from 11:15am–12:30pm at the ACSP 2026 Conference. See the full list of Site Visitors on page 4.

# Partner News

## AICP Pilot Exam

APA is offering a pilot AICP exam in November 2026 to help prepare for the 2027 exam refresh. The pilot exam is open to all APA members. Members who pass either the standard AICP exam or the pilot exam will be designated as **AICP Candidates**.

The standard AICP exam costs **$305**, while the pilot exam is offered at a reduced fee of **$100**.

## 2027 AICP Certification Windows

Exam Registration: April 1 - August 31
Exam Administration: April 1 - September 30
Assessment Submission: April 1 - November 30

**Dates are subject to change. APA will post any updates to the AICP Certification webpage.*




# ACSP2026 Session Highlights

*Check ACSP conference program for rooms & latest updates

**Thursday, October 8**

9:30am - 10:45am Pathways and Paychecks: Discover data that APA/AICP, ACSP and PAB maintain and gain valuable insights into the state of the planning profession and academy.

2:00pm - 3:15pm Simplifying the Accreditation Process: Join the discussion with accredited program faculty.

**Friday, October 9**

4:45pm - 6:15pm Process and Feedback for Revising the PAB Standards for 2027: Learn about the standards revision process and timeline for approval. PAB members and staff will be available to answer questions and listen to feedback.

**Saturday, October 10**

9:30am - 11:00am Accreditation: Prepare Now, Relax Later: Program Administrators will gain understanding of the accreditation process, timeline, and guidance on preparing an effective Self-Study Report.

2:00pm - 4:00pm PAB Site Visitor Training with Real World Scenarios: Site Visitors will learn about their duties and the ins and outs of the Amended 2022 Accreditation Standards through real-world scenarios.

# Honoring 2026 PAB Site Visitors

We are proud to recognize the educators and practitioners whose participation strengthens the profession and advances our shared mission. These 156 professionals represent the collective expertise, leadership, and commitment that define PAB. Thank you for contributing your knowledge, your experience, and your presence. Together, we learn, lead, and elevate the future of planning.

## Site Visit Team Chairs

Maryanne Akers
Clint Andrews, AICP
Ellen Bassett
John Betancur
Eugenie Birch, FAICP
Steve Bourassa
Susan Bradbury
Jeff Brown
Michael Burayidi
Arnab Chakraborty, AICP
Tim Chapin
Maria Manta Conroy
Thomas Daniels
Steven French, FAICP
Ed Goetz
Eric Heikkila
Dawn Jourdan, AICP
Karl Kim
Zenia Kotval, AICP
Jonathan Levine
Marla Nelson, AICP
Connie Ozawa
Henry Renski
George Rogers
Tom Sanchez
Brenda Scheer, FAICP
Carissa S. Slotterback, FAICP
Stephan Schmidt
Siddhartha Sen
Frederick R. Steiner
Ruth Steiner
Eric Strauss, AICP
Shannon Van Zandt
Niraj Verma
Xinhao Wang, AICP
Stacey S. White
Mark Wilson
Curtis Winkle
Ming Zhang

## Educators

Asha Agrawal
Gulsah Akar
Jerry Anthony, FAICP
Eran Ben-Joseph
Philip Berke
Mike Boswell, AICP
John Crowley, FAICP
Kristina Currans
Diane Davis
Casey Dawkins
Brian Deal
Dorothy Dewey, AICP
Hazel Edwards, FAICP
Renia Ehrenfeucht
Ingrid Gould Ellen
Ann Forsyth
Nancy Frank, AICP
Ralph P. Hall
Elisabeth Hamin Infield
Daniel Hess
Rick Hoch, AICP
Justin Hollander, FAICP
Lingqian Hu
Thomas Hutton
Raj Jutla
Rachel Kleit
Zeenat Kotval-K, AICP
Kristin Larsen, FAICP
Lucie Laurian
Evangeline Linkous, AICP
Jeffrey Lowe
Jonathan Martin, AICP
Suzanne Moomaw
Kathe Newman
Richard Norton
Laxmi Ramasubramanian, AICP
Deden Rukmana
Brent Ryan
Megan Ryerson
Jesse Saginor, AICP
Gerard Sandoval
Luis Santiago
Charles Santo
Robert Shibley, FAICP
Chris Silver, FAICP
David Simpson, AICP
Brian Taylor, FAICP
Austin Troy
Mildred Warner
Charles Warnken, AICP
Bev Wilson
Chia Yuan-Yu
Nicholas Zaferatos, AICP
Sumei Zhang., AICP
Yang Zhang

## Practitioners

Adam Bailey, AICP
Mitzi Barker, FAICP
Owen Beitsch, FAICP
Mark Bennett, AICP
Lee Brown, FAICP
Wayne Carlson, FAICP
Maria Connolly, AICP, PP
Fernando Costa, FAICP
Robert Cowell, AICP
Brian Davis, AICP
Miroo Desai, AICP
Shawn Dikes, AICP
Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore, FAICP
Fleming El-Amin II, AICP
Bristol Ellington, AICP
Wayne Feiden, FAICP
Nancy Ferber, AICP
David Fields, FAICP
Elizabeth Gossman, FAICP
Allara Mills Gutcher, AICP
David Haight, FAICP
Susan Harden, FAICP
Aaron Henson, AICP
Nicole Hostettler, AICP
Lakisha Hull, AICP
Stephen Ibendahl, AICP
Gloria Jeff, AICP
David Kinsey, FAICP, PP
Bruce Knight, FAICP
Mary Kopaskie-Brown, AICP
Jeffrey R. Levine, AICP
Francis Xavier Lilly, AICP
John Mann, AICP
Keith A. Marvin, AICP
Kathleen McCabe, FAICP
George McGregor, AICP
Karin Morris, AICP
Julian Perez, AICP
Michael Piscitelli, AICP
Brian P. Reagan, AICP
Carol Rhea, FAICP
David Salazar, FAICP
Suzanna Schwartz, FAICP
Janet B. Shull, AICP
Scot Siegel, FAICP
Patrick Streeter, AICP
Susan Swift, AICP
Jeremy Tejirian, AICP
James Tolbert, FAICP
Alissa Torres, FAICP
Libby Tyler, FAICP
David Wade, AICP
Tyson Warner, FAICP
Elbert Waters, JD
Philip L. Walker, FAICP
Corrin H. Wendell, AICP
Rymond White, Sr., AICP
Jeffrey Williams, AICP
Ralph Wilmer, FAICP
David R. Wilwerding, AICP
David Woods, FAICP, PP
Jared Woolston, AICP