



COPRA Accreditation Actions 2021

COPRA ACTION STATEMENT

August 18, 2021

The Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) virtually met on June 7-10, 2021 and issued accreditation actions for the 2020-2021 Cohort. Final accreditation actions are published on an annual basis. Programs receiving initial accreditation (through 2028) or five-, six- or seven-year reaccreditation decisions (through 2026, 2027 or 2028, respectively) demonstrated conformity with the [NASPAA Standards](#) after a thorough review by the Commission. The Commission bases its conclusion on the overall quality of the program, performance of its mission, consideration of substantial conformance with the standards, and assessment of overall program quality given the unique mission of that program. Programs receiving initial accreditations and reaccreditations, including positive one-year reaccreditations, are included on the Roster of Accredited Programs, updated each year.

In June 2021, the Commission took the following actions:

INITIAL SEVEN YEAR ACCREDITATIONS			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
Beijing Normal University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
North Carolina Central University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 7.1: Communications
University of Central Oklahoma	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None

SEVEN* YEAR REACCREDITATIONS

(*5 or 6 years if voluntary delays, deferred site visits, and/or one-year reaccreditations were in effect)

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
Auburn University at Montgomery	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
Binghamton University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027*	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 4.1: Student Recruitment; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
California State University, Fresno	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
DePaul University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2026*	Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
George Mason University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027*	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Grambling State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027*	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Jackson State University	Master of Public Policy and Administration	August 31, 2026*	None
North Carolina State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
Northern Illinois University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
Oregon State University	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2028	None
Rutgers University, Camden	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
San Francisco State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
Southern University and A&M College	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027*	Standard 4.3: Support for Students; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
Southern Utah University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity
Syracuse University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
Texas A&M International University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027*	None
Texas A&M University	Master of Public Service and Administration	August 31, 2028	None
The University of Illinois at Chicago	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro	Master of Public Affairs	August 31, 2028	None
The University of Texas at San Antonio	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027*	None
University of Colorado Colorado Springs	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	Standard 4.4: Student Diversity
University of Colorado Denver	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 4.4: Student Diversity; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
University of Dayton	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 4.4: Student Diversity
University of Kentucky	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
University of La Verne	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity
University of Minnesota	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2028	None
University of New Orleans	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027*	None
University of North Carolina, Wilmington	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027*	None
University of North Texas	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2028	None
Western Carolina University	Master of Public Affairs	August 31, 2028	Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 4.4: Student Diversity

ONE-YEAR REACCREDITATIONS

(with non-conformities COPRA deems remediable within one year)

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Cited Standards
College of Charleston	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2022	Precondition 4
Jacksonville State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2022	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 5.2: Mission-specific Required Competencies; Standard 5.3: Mission-specific Elective Competencies
Kentucky State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2022	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
Morehead State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2022	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 3.3: Research, Scholarship and Service; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
The University of Texas at Austin	Master of Public Affairs	August 31, 2022	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 4.3: Support for Students; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 5.2: Mission-specific Required Competencies; Standard 7.1: Communications
Tsinghua University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2022	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies

DEFERRALS			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Cited Standards
Barry University	Master of Public Administration	n/a	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Fundação Getulio Vargas	Master of Public Administration	n/a	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 4.4: Student Diversity; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 5.3: Mission-specific Elective Competencies; Standard 5.4: Professional Competencies

WITHDRAWALS		
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration
Carnegie Mellon University	Master of Public Management	December 31, 2020
Carnegie Mellon University	Master of Science in Public Policy and Management	December 31, 2020

A program receiving **accreditation** or **reaccreditation** has demonstrated substantial conformance with the [NASPAA Standards](#), based on the Commission’s conclusion on the overall quality of the program, its performance of its mission, consideration of substantial conformance with the standards, and its assessment of overall program quality given the unique mission of that program. In some cases, programs earning accreditation may be subject to monitoring on specific standards (**Monitoring Standards**). A program may be monitored on a specific standard(s) when the Commission deems that the program is in overall conformance, yet needs improvement in a specific conformance area, or the Commission wishes to follow the implementation of a new practice. Programs are required to report back to the Commission via annual reports with updates on the specific standards being monitored.

A currently accredited program receiving a **one-year reaccreditation** has been determined to have specific non-conformities with the Standards that can be resolved within one calendar year. Those programs granted a one-year reaccreditation will be required to submit a response to the decision letter addressing the nonconformities when the program re-enters the immediate next cycle.

A program receiving a **deferral** decision has been determined to have specific non-conformities with the standards that can be resolved within one or two calendar years, but which preclude immediate inclusion on the Annual Roster of Accredited Programs.

A program receiving a **denial** of accreditation has not demonstrated conformance with the NASPAA Standards. Programs receiving denials of accreditation may appeal the decision based on the grounds that COPRA's decision was arbitrary, capricious, or not supported by substantial evidence in the record on which the Commission took action, or the procedures used to reach the decision were contrary to published COPRA Policies and Procedures, or other established practices, and the procedural error prejudiced the Commission's consideration of the program application.

If an accredited program chooses not to enter its regularly scheduled review cycle, the Commission will **withdraw** its accreditation status, effective either at the expiration of its regular term or at the due date for its next annual review, whichever is sooner.

COPRA has a rigorous, [multilevel process](#) for making accreditation and reaccreditation decisions. The process includes a self-study report, interim communication with COPRA, and a site visit by a team of peers. COPRA's multi-step process provides the checks and balances necessary to ensure fair and accurate decisions. During the 2020-2021 review year, all programs COPRA recommended to proceed to site visit were given the option to either host their visit online or postpone the site visit to the following review year. By putting the decision in the hands of programs, COPRA gave each program the ability to be responsive to the needs of its community. COPRA has used every piece of the review process to ensure the quality of programs, consistency in the review process, and fairness in decision making.