

COPRA Accreditation Actions 2024

COPRA ACTION STATEMENT

July 12, 2024

The Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) met on June 11-13, 2024, and issued accreditation actions for the 2023-2024 Cohort. Final accreditation actions are published on an annual basis. Programs receiving initial accreditation (through 2031) or five-, six- or seven-year reaccreditation decisions (through 2029, 2030 or 2031, 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 2024, the Commission took the following actions:

INITIAL SEVEN YEAR ACCREDITATIONS			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
University of Rhode Island	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	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
Arizona State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 7.1: Communications
California State University, Bakersfield	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2030*	None
California State University, Chico	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
California State University, San Bernardino	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
Central Michigan University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	None
Clark Atlanta University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	None
Cleveland State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 4.1: Student Recruitment; Standard 4.4: Student Diversity; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
Georgia Southern University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 4.2: Student Admission; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
KDI School of Public Policy and Management	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2031	None
KDI School of Public Policy and Management	Master of Public Management	August 31, 2031	None
KDI School of Public Policy and Management	Master of Development Policy	August 31, 2031	None
Old Dominion University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	Standard 4.1: Student Recruitment; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy; Standard 7.1: Communications
Renmin University of China	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	None

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
Texas State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	None
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	Standard 4.4: Student Diversity
The University of Texas at Dallas	Master of Public Affairs	August 31, 2031	None
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	None
University of Maryland, College Park	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2031	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	None
University of South Florida	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	Standard 4.1: Student Recruitment; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy; Standard 4.3: Support for Students; Standard 5.4: Professional Competencies
University of West Georgia	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	None
Virginia Commonwealth University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031	None
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2030*	None
Wright State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2030*	None

ONE-YEAR REACCREDITATIONS (with non-conformities COPRA deems remediable within one year)			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Cited Standards
California State University, Fullerton	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2025	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 4.3: Support for Students;
California State University, Stanislaus	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2025	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 4.1: Student Recruitment; Standard 4.2: Student Admission; Standard 4.4: Student Diversity; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 7.1: Communications
Louisiana State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2025	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies

WITHDRAWALS		
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration
Minnesota State University, Mankato	Master of Arts in Public Administration and Community Management	Effective August 31, 2024

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. 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.