

Denial of Accreditation Statement

August 20, 2020

The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), the global standard in public service education, is a membership organization of more than 300 schools and programs of public policy, affairs, and administration. NASPAA has been in existence since 1970 and is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the professional accreditor in the field. NASPAA's accreditation process is dedicated to advancing the development and quality of public service education. We are committed to the integrity of the accreditation process, including our role in ensuring public accountability to stakeholders across the field of public service, especially students.

Our accrediting body, the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA), issues its accreditation decisions independently. Those decisions are the result of the deliberations of the fourteen members of COPRA and are based on the standards of accreditation that have been approved by our membership and are routinely reviewed as part of our own commitment to peer review and continuous improvement.

In determining accreditation actions, the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) bases its 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. A program that is denied accreditation has not provided evidence of substantial conformance with the NASPAA Accreditation Standards.

Programs voluntarily pursue accreditation when it is right for them as they work toward programmatic improvement in public affairs education. Hundreds of graduate programs have participated in NASPAA's peer review and accreditation process since then, and as of September 1, 206 programs are accredited.

COPRA is required to publicly release details of all denial decisions, according to the *Peer Review and Accreditation Policies and Procedures* for NASPAA Accreditation (13.5).

At its June 2020 meeting, the Commission voted to deny accreditation to the following program(s). The accreditation standards cited in the final decision letter are listed below each program.

Norwich University, Master of Public Administration

- Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations
- Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation
- Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity
- Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance
- Standard 3.1: Faculty Qualification
- Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity
- Standard 3.3: Research, Scholarship and Service
- Standard 4.3: Support for Students
- Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies