



NASPAA/COPRA Guidelines for Research Access to NASPAA Accreditation Data and Archives

NASPAA and the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) encourage research and learning from the accreditation process. To access accreditation data and archival material researchers must submit a research proposal to COPRA. The Commission's decision regarding approval is final. The expectation is that the researcher will submit the results of his or her research to peer-reviewed journals and contribute to public scholarship in the field. In addition, the researchers must agree to certain confidentiality provisions and be free of conflicts of interest regarding the materials. The researcher will assume all direct costs, if any, – including personnel – related to retrieving and transmitting the materials. Researchers should be aware that much of the information collected by NASPAA (through membership surveys or the accreditation process) is publicly available on the NASPAA website or institutional websites. In certain areas, raw data sets are publicly available online or through the NASPAA Data Center.

In order to be approved by the Commission, research proposals must:

- contain a coherent statement of the theoretical framework on which research is based, the thesis or problem statement for the research, and testable hypotheses.
- use methodology appropriate and directly related to the research.
- not be undertaken as part of the researcher's home school accreditation self-study process or pose a conflict of interest with the researcher's home school accreditation review by requesting access to data/information about other schools for that purpose.
- not be undertaken as part of a peer benchmarking exercise.¹
- demonstrate the relevance of the requested information and/or data to the proposal including, as appropriate, a justification for access to unblinded (i.e. identifiable by program/institution) data.
- be sufficiently focused so as not to infringe on the explicit confidentiality of the programs in the NASPAA Self-Study process.
- demonstrate the potential to make a useful contribution to scholarship and research in this field or related fields.
- adhere to all research and ethical conduct guidelines of the researcher's home institution.

Submission Process: The proposal should be submitted to COPRA at least one month prior to the requested research date, two months prior if the proposal requests access to historical documents in the NASPAA archives. Please send requests addressed to the Commission to hamilton@naspaa.org.

Data Access: Once a request is approved, researchers will be required to sign the NASPAA Data confidentiality form. Data will be delivered in raw outputs directly from the NASPAA Data Center. Any necessary data cleaning will be conducted by the researcher. Accreditation data are self-reported by individual programs seeking accreditation. COPRA and NASPAA assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the data provided by each program.

NASPAA assumes no responsibility for the research conducted or conclusions drawn. Research conclusions drawn from such proposals do not constitute an endorsement from NASPAA. Access for researchers is granted only for non-commercial, nonprofit uses only, and no information or data may be sold by users of the archive under any circumstances, or transferred to other users or researchers without the express written permission of NASPAA. Access to the archive grants users no ownership or copyright of any NASPAA information, data, materials, systems, etc. NASPAA retains all rights.

¹ If you are interested in benchmarking data, please contact NASPAA's Data Center (drudy@naspaa.org). Data that are collected exclusively for accreditation are not available as part of NASPAA's benchmarking services.

All resulting research, publications, presentations, or other forms of dissemination should include the following statement: NASPAA assumes no responsibility for the research conducted or conclusions drawn. Research conclusions drawn from such proposals do not constitute an endorsement from NASPAA.