

## COPRA Accreditation Actions 2020

### COPRA ACTION STATEMENT

**August 20, 2020**

The Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) virtually met on June 22-25, 2020 and issued accreditation actions for the 2019-2020 Cohort. Final accreditation actions are published on an annual basis. Programs receiving initial accreditation (through 2027) or five-, six- or seven-year reaccreditation decisions (through 2025, 2026 or 2027, 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 2020, the Commission took the following actions:

<b>INITIAL SEVEN YEAR ACCREDITATIONS</b>			
<b>University</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Accreditation Expiration</b>	<b>Monitoring Standards</b>
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2027	None
Hunter College, CUNY	Master of Science in Urban Policy and Leadership	August 31, 2027	None

<b>SEVEN* YEAR REACCREDITATIONS</b>			
(*5 or 6 years if voluntary delays, deferred site visits, and/or one-year reaccreditations were in effect)			
<b>University</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Accreditation Expiration</b>	<b>Monitoring Standards</b>
Auburn University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2026*	Standard 4.1: Student Recruitment
Bowie State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2026*	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies

<b>University</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Accreditation Expiration</b>	<b>Monitoring Standards</b>
Columbia University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	None
Columbia University	Master of International Affairs	August 31, 2027	None
Florida State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis	Master of Public Affairs	August 31, 2027	None
Indiana University, Northwest	Master of Public Affairs	August 31, 2027	None
Indiana University, South Bend	Master of Public Affairs	August 31, 2027	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity
Portland State University	Executive Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Portland State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Portland State University	Master of Public Administration: Health Administration	August 31, 2027	Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Rutgers University, New Brunswick	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2025*	Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Suffolk University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
Texas Southern University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2025*	Standard 4.3: Support for Students; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
The University of New Mexico	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2026*	None
The University of South Dakota	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	Standard 4.1: Student Recruitment
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2026*	None
The University of Texas at Arlington	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2025*	None
The University of Utah	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2026*	Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity
University of Missouri-Kansas City	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity
University of North Florida	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	None
University of San Francisco	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2026*	None
University of South Carolina	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2026*	None
University of Southern California	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	None
Wayne State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2027	None

<b>ONE-YEAR REACCREDITATIONS</b> (with non-conformities COPRA deems remediable within one year)			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Cited Standards
DePaul University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2021	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 3.1: Faculty Qualifications; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Cited Standards
Texas A&M International University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2021	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 3.1: Faculty Qualifications; Standard 4.3: Support for Students; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 5.4: Professional Competencies

DEFERRALS			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Cited Standards
University of the District of Columbia	Master of Public Administration	n/a	Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 3.1: Faculty Qualifications; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy

POSTPONED SITE VISITS DUE TO COVID-19			
University	Program	Accreditation Status	Expected Accreditation Action
California State University, Fresno	Master of Public Administration	Accredited for 7 years	July 2021
Fundação Getulio Vargas	Master of Public Administration	Eligibility Reviewed	July 2021
Grambling State University	Master of Public Administration	Delayed 1 year	July 2021
Jackson State University	Master of Public Policy and Administration	One-year reaccreditation	July 2021
Kentucky State University	Master of Public Administration	One-year reaccreditation	July 2021
Morehead State University	Master of Public Administration	Delayed 1 year	July 2021
North Carolina Central University	Master of Public Administration	Eligibility Reviewed	July 2021

Southern University and A&M College	Master of Public Administration	Delayed 1 year	July 2021
The University of Texas at Austin	Master of Public Affairs	Accredited for 7 years	July 2021
Tsinghua University	Master of Public Administration	Accredited for 7 years	July 2021

DENIALS			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Cited Standards
Norwich University	Master of Public Administration	n/a	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 2.2: Faculty Governance; Standard 3.1: Faculty Qualifications; Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 3.3: Research, Scholarship and Service; Standard 4.3: Support for Students; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies  <a href="#"><u>Denial of Accreditation Statement</u></a>

WITHDRAWALS		
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration
Boise State University	Master of Public Administration	August 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.

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, it became clear that site visits occurring in mid-to-late March and early April would be directly impacted by the shift to distance learning, restrictions on travel, extended spring breaks, and campus closures. As a result, COPRA offered programs with site visits scheduled after March 18 the option to **postpone the site visit** to be scheduled between September and November 2020. By putting the decision in the hands of programs, COPRA gave each program the ability to be responsive to the needs of its community, specifically faculty navigating the review process and immediate shifts to distance learning, invest its resources toward mission-based outcomes that promote the values of public service, and ensure faculty and students are well-supported during this challenging time. Programs postponing the site visit maintain their current accreditation status, will incur no additional fees, nor will their maximum accreditation term be impacted.