2026 NASPAA Global
Proposal Submission Guidelines

Submission Details

Panel sessions will occur during the main conference on Thursday, Oct. 1 and Friday, Oct. 2. A fully-formed panel consists of a convener, 3-4 confirmed speakers, and a well-developed topic of discussion. When submitting a panel for consideration, you should explore the implications of the track themes and what they mean for public service education. Panel proposals are welcome in any format, including, but not limited to, conventional presentations, roundtable discussions, a presentation with respondents, and panel discussions. Conference sessions will be one hour in duration and should ideally have no more than four presenters to allow for the audience to engage in a thoughtful and meaningful discussion of the topic.

Before proposing a panel, you are encouraged to contact peers at other institutions and examine carefully how these ideas are being developed in the classroom, in program administration, in community relations and in research. Reaching out to relevant **NASPAA committees and/or sections** for input and formal endorsement is also encouraged, but not required. Click here to view NASPAA committee sections & committee members.

While the basis for your panel proposal may be a published paper, your proposal should examine the implications of your research and include discussion of opposing viewpoints. Conference panel proposals should not be manuscript abstracts. Proposals should present an idea and describe how all sides of the idea will be discussed. Proposals that present variety across types, sizes, or geographic location of programs will receive preference. Proposals should include presenters from **at least 2 different institutions**. Panels with institutions outside of the United States and Minority Serving Institutions are encouraged. Please note, in order to accept as many presenters as possible, the conference planning committee may ask you to be flexible in your presenters, or they may suggest substitute presenters.

Submitting an "orphan proposal" (a proposal without a full slate of presenters) is discouraged. While the committee will attempt to match individual submissions to an existing panel, most accepted panels are already full, or there may not be a suitable topical fit.

In some cases, accepted panels may be renamed or combined with additional speakers to accommodate an orphan proposal or to merge with another panel that has fewer presenters and aligns better with the conference theme.

If you would like NASPAA to send out a survey to gather information from NASPAA members for your panel, please email events@naspaa.org. A limited number of surveys will be sent to NASPAA members and requests for surveys will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis. NASPAA will schedule surveys shortly following panels notification of acceptance. Surveys should be ready to be sent, this includes having IRB approval if necessary. NASPAA has a limited window in which to schedule surveys and will not hold survey spots open for surveys still awaiting IRB approval. Researchers collecting primary data and seeking to use the data for a JPAE or other journal submission should secure IRB approval at their home institution prior to starting the data collection.

Panel proposals require clear and concise titles, succinct and persuasive descriptions, ideally links to at least one conference track and/or the overall conference theme, and well-thought-out learning objectives.

Panel Logistics

- Panels are one hour in length; the full length of presentations should take no more than 45 minutes, with at least 15 minutes reserved for a question and answer period.
- Each panel should consist of a convener/chair, up to four presenters, and up to one respondent (optional).
- The panel convener will manage the panel development process, and then at the conference session, the convener will open the panel by framing the discussion and moderate the Q&A period.
- If the convener would like to make a presentation, he/she should only invite three additional presenters.
- Each presenter will have no more than 10-15 minutes to share ideas and commentary. It is essential for the panel convener to manage presentations to ensure ample time for discussion at the end of the presentations.
- If a respondent is added to the panel, he/she will not make a presentation but will instead offer summary comments on the panelists' presentations. The respondent's comments should be within the 45 minutes to allow at least 15 minutes for questions from the audience.
- All presentation rooms will be set up theater style with PowerPoint presentation technology. A limited number of rooms will be available with audio capability; please indicate in your proposal if you will need audio technology (i.e. showing a video clip).

- Panelists should consider alternatives to the usual presentation/response format, including moderated roundtables and other forms of presentation that encourage lively discussion and debate

Presenter Limits

To maximize the overall number of presenters, the Conference Planning Committee will continue the NASPAA practice of following the **Rule of One: limiting presenter participation to one session during the main conference**. This includes roles as convener, presenter, and/or respondent, but each session only counts once. This rule does not apply to the following types of sessions: meetings, plenaries, workshops, and the Accreditation Institute.

Proposal Selection

NASPAA typically receives more than 200 excellent proposal submissions for each Global Conference, so please understand that selecting panels is a difficult and highly selective process. As such, quality rather than quantity is always best when submitting proposals. We much prefer to receive your best ideas rather than every idea you might have. Preference will be given to panels that address the theme: Public Service Without Borders: Reimagining Global Leadership, Inclusiveness, and Collaboration and which:
- Address at least one of the conference tracks;
- Include panel participants which represent the diversity of NASPAA institutions, including institutions outside of the United States and Minority Servicing Institutions;
- Will allow for discussion and analysis of current topics;
- Have representation from at least two schools, and ideally, from two or more countries;
- Involve practitioners, students, or other stakeholders;
- Include a full slate of presenters;
- Report on experiences with collaborative work across programs, stakeholders, and/or countries;
- Are nonpartisan and examine multiple viewpoints of an issue;
- Encompass an appropriate volume of information to present in one hour, which will facilitate a thoughtful and meaningful discussion;
- Represent interests of and/or have the explicit endorsement of a NASPAA committee or section; and
- Reflect originality and relevance.

The conference selection committee will review all submissions, and NASPAA will notify the submitter of the final status by April 10, 2026.

Tracks

Track 1 - Accreditation Around the Globe and Quality Assurance

- Innovations in accreditation across regions
- Expanding our accreditation partners
- Guidance and support for small and new programs

Track 2 - Inclusivity and Institutional Trust Across Borders

- Promoting ethical practices and social justice in institutions around the world
- Building inclusive governance in diverse systems
- Indigenizing public affairs curriculum globally
- Sustainability in public affairs education

Track 3 - Cross-National Leadership Development

- Training the next generation of global public service leaders
- Global strategies for improving public trust in public service
- Leadership in fragile democracies and post-conflict countries
- Supporting women and marginalized leaders in global public administration

Track 4 - Collaborative Teaching and Learning Models Across the Globe

- Sharing courses and faculty resources across institutions
- Teaching across modalities/Implementing flexible modalities to meet students' demands
- Adapting and managing telework settings for students and faculty
- Developing an undergraduate program curriculum and teaching methods

Track 5 - Global Strategies for Improving Faculty and Student Well Being

- Defining emotional labor in research and teaching
- Strategies to address stress, burnout, and mental health challenges among faculty and students

- Strategies to support students facing uncertainty about careers in public service

Track 6 - **New and Emerging Challenges in Global Education**
- Teaching and researching public administration in conflict and post conflict countries
- Reinventing and reinvigorating public service globally
- The use of artificial intelligence in teaching or public sector work
- Teaching public administration amid political, fiscal, or organizational constraints