

COPRA Accreditation Actions 2026

COPRA ACTION STATEMENT July 17, 2026

The Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) met on June 16-18, 2026, and issued accreditation actions for the 2025-2026 Cohort. Final accreditation actions are published on an annual basis. Programs receiving initial accreditation (through 2033) or four-, five-, six- or seven-year reaccreditation decisions (through 2030, 2031, 2032 or 2033, 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 2026, the Commission took the following actions:

INITIAL SEVEN-YEAR ACCREDITATIONS			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
Penn State, University Park	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2033	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation
University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service	Master of Public Service	August 31, 2033	None
University of Central Florida	Master of Emergency and Crisis Management	August 31, 2033	None
University of Cincinnati	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
University of Connecticut	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2033	None

University of Massachusetts Amherst	Master of Public Policy and Administration	August 31, 2033	Standard 3.1: Faculty Qualifications
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SEVEN* YEAR REACCREDITATIONS (*4, 5, or 6 years if voluntary delays, deferred site visits, and/or one-year reaccreditations were in effect)			
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
Albany State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	None
Appalachian State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Eastern Michigan University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
Fulbright University Vietnam	Master of Public Policy	August 31, 2033	None
Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración-IESA	Master of Public Management	August 31, 2031*	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
Jackson State University	Master of Public Policy and Administration	August 31, 2033	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 5.3: Mission-specific Elective Competencies
Kansas State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	None
New Mexico State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	Standard 1.2: Performance Expectations; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
San Jose State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2031*	Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 4.3: Support for Students
Seton Hall University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2030*	None

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	None
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	Standard 3.2: Faculty Diversity; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
State University of New York Brockport	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
Tennessee State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
Texas Southern University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	Standard 1.3: Program Evaluation; Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies; Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy; Standard 7.1: Communications
The University of New Mexico	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 3.1: Faculty Qualifications
The University of Oklahoma	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
The University of Texas at Arlington	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	Standard 5.1: Universal Required Competencies
The University of Texas at El Paso	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
The University of Utah	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	Standard 6.1: Resource Adequacy
University of Central Florida	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
University of Connecticut	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	None
University of Louisville	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	Standard 7.1: Communications

University	Program	Accreditation Expiration	Monitoring Standards
University of Nebraska at Omaha	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
University of South Carolina	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None
Valdosta State University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2032*	Standard 1.1: Mission Statement; Standard 2.1: Administrative Capacity; Standard 7.1: Communications
Zhejiang University	Master of Public Administration	August 31, 2033	None

WITHDRAWALS		
University	Program	Accreditation Expiration
Portland State University	Master of Public Administration: Health Administration	Effective January 15, 2026

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.