

January 31, 2017

Dear NASPAA-Accredited Program Representative:

I am pleased to inform you the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) has accepted your 2016 Annual Accreditation Maintenance Report. By maintaining accreditation your program has demonstrated a strong commitment to quality public service education. The Commission thanks you for your continued attention to each annual report and commends your program on its commitment to ongoing improvement.

In coming maintenance reports, your program will continue to pertain to the Accreditation Standards outlined in the decision letter of your most recent accreditation cycle. All programs submitting Self-Study Reports seek accreditation under the 2009 Accreditation Standards. As such, the Commission expects programs accredited under the pre-2009 Accreditation Standards to be incorporating the newer requirements into their programs, specifically student competency assessment, as part of their strategic, mission-based program management. This shift should continue to be addressed in future annual reports.

Over time, the Commission expects that its understanding of the Standards and the expectations of what it means to be in compliance will advance and evolve, as programs (and COPRA) become more familiar with the competencies-based approach to accreditation. COPRA expects, as evidenced by its [Policy Statements](#), programs successful in reaccreditation to have implemented sustainable approaches to program evaluation and student learning assessment, incorporating direct measures, the use of rubrics for evaluation, faculty and stakeholder involvement, analysis procedures, and evidence of how analysis is used for overall program improvement.

The Commission looks forward to your future Annual Reports and Self-Study Report submissions.

Regards,



Laura Bloomberg, PhD
Chair, Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation
NASPAA