

February 16, 2021

Dear NASPAA-Accredited Program Representative:

I am pleased to inform you the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) has accepted your 2020 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.

COPRA expects all accredited programs to exemplify public service values through transparency in programmatic actions and results, and accountability measures to their stakeholders. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) expects recognized accreditors, including NASPAA, to require accredited programs to publicly provide student achievement data to their stakeholders. Therefore, programs are expected to annually update student achievement data (surrounding graduation rates and employment rates in particular) displayed on program websites.

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. Per the [November 2019 policy statement](#), beginning in 2021-22, all programs submitting Self-Study Reports must seek accreditation under the [2019 Accreditation Standards](#). As such, the Commission expects programs accredited under the 2009 Accreditation Standards to move toward incorporating the revised standards into their programs. The 2019 Standards include more explicit emphasis on global public service values, such as equity, transparency, and accountability, as well as universal competencies that reflect developments in the field of public service. Programs should continue to update their program changes 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,



Shawn T. Flanigan, Chair  
Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation  
Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration