

ASPA Code of Good Practice

The ASPA Code of Good Practice provides guiding principles for members in conducting the accreditation process.

An accrediting organization holding membership in the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors:

1. Promotes quality in education through accreditation processes that:

- a. Focus on student learning informed by programmatic and institutional missions and goals.
- b. Evaluate educational quality in an unbiased manner.
- c. Encourage programs and institutions to provide pertinent, clear and accessible public information about student achievement.
- d. Encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion.

2. Conducts accreditation processes with integrity and professionalism that:

- a. Maintain autonomy in governance and operations through appropriate relationships, practices and avoidance of conflict of interest.
- b. Implement policies and procedures to ensure fair and consistent application of standards and decision making that includes due process, confidentiality, and expedient response to appeals and complaints.
- c. Develop, review and revise standards and accreditation procedures on a regular basis with the participation of communities of interest.
- d. Maintain sufficient financial, personnel, and other resources for effective operations, while ensuring efficient accreditation processes for programs and institutions.
- e. Cooperate with other agencies whenever possible to avoid conflicting standards and to minimize duplication of effort by programs and institutions.
- f. Provide evaluations to assist programs and institutions in developing their own approaches and solutions, making a clear distinction between accreditation requirements and recommendations for improvement.
- g. Provide accurate, clear, accessible, and timely information to communities of interest about accreditation: standards, procedures and status of programs and institutions.
- h. Maintain an effective training and professional development program for all accreditation staff and volunteers.
- i. Ensure that decision-makers and evaluators have the appropriate expertise, experience, and training for each review.
- j. Include periodic evaluations of the accreditation process that incorporate input from accredited programs and institutions.
- k. Encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion.

3. Recognizes institutional independence and academic freedom through accrediting activities that:

- a. Encourage institutional freedom to make academic decisions while fulfilling the commitment to the accreditation requirements.
- b. Respect the rights of programs and institutions to determine and implement missions and goals.
- c. Encourage innovation, and thoughtful change that meets the needs of the profession, students and the communities served.
- d. Encourage programs and institutions to provide clear and accessible public information about their approaches to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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