

TO: Accredited Programs, COAPRT Visitors

From: Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions

Date: November 25, 2014

RE: COAPRT Council Fall Meeting

Greeting Colleagues,

The Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions held its

Fall meeting and hearings in conjunction with 2014 NRPA Congress in Charlotte, NC on October 12 and 13, 2014. I am pleased to provide information on the status of Council; accredited programs; revisions of the Standards, Handbook, and visitation schedule; and other information of interest to accredited programs and visitors. The actions taken by Council are outlined below:

**Standard Revisions:**

* Standard 5.03 was eliminated. Council determined the standard was duplicative of other standards.
* Standard 2.05.05 was revised to read:

The program annually posts the most current 7.0 series data and additional evidence reflecting program academic quality and student achievement on their program and/or departmental website. Such information shall be consistent with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements.

* 7.00 series. Programs will be required to use the updated 7.00 series template when preparing self-studies starting with the 2015-16 visits. The Council also eliminated the word “exceptional” from 7.00 series visitation report template.

**Visitation schedule:**

The following changes were made in the visitation schedule:

* For programs scheduled for visits in academic year 2015-2016, the visits can be scheduled from November, 2015 until March 1. 2016. Program hearings will be held at NPRA Congress in fall 2016.
* Beginning with academic year 2016-17 and thereafter, program visitations will occur during the fall and the program hearings will be held at NRPA Congress the following fall. To illustrate, programs scheduled for visitations during the 2016-17 academic year will have fall 2016 visits with the program hearings at the 2017 NRPA Congress.

Council adopted this visitation schedule to afford programs sufficient time to implement curricular, assessment, and/or other programmatic changes between receipt of the visitation report and by the August 1st deadline prior to the hearing.

**Reminder for Programs – Response to the Visitation Report:**

There has been some confusion about the nature of the response to the visitation report. (more details in the COAPRT Accreditation Handbook)

1. The institution has 30 days from receipt of the Visitation Report to acknowledge receipt of the report and to respond to any errors of substance and/or fact identified therein.

2. The program has until August 1 to address any standards noted as being partially met or not met or for inadequate assessment information. The response should also address any major and secondary concerns. The response should include the following information:

* An executive summary of the information provided in the response,
* A narrative that addresses each standard identified as being unmet or partially met in the Visitation Report, inadequate assessment information, and any major or secondary concerns noted in the Report,
* Additional documentation that may help the Council understand the response, and
* Appendices, as necessary.

**Handbook revisions**

* Associate Evaluator. Council eliminated the role of the Associate Evaluator in the review of program self-studies and visitation repots. Reviews of self-studies and visitation reports will be conducted by the COAPRT Chair, Council Lead and Second, and the visitation team.
* Optional mid-cycle review.Council established procedures for the optional mid-cycle review of an additional program.

a. Programs residing in units with one or more COAPRT accredited academic programs that is/are in good standing may seek accreditation for additional academic programs in Parks, Recreation, Tourism or Related Professions during the Standard Review Cycle (SRC – 7 years).

b. Programs seeking mid-cycle accreditation must submit the “Intent to Pursue Accreditation Form” found online at www.nrpa.org/COAPRT, along with a self-study evidencing program compliance with Standards 1.01, 1.03, 1.04, 1.06 and Series 7.00. An application fee of $500 must accompany these documents.

c. The self-study will be reviewed and a one-person visitation conducted consistent with existing Council practices.

d. The self-study and visitation report will be considered at the regularly-scheduled Council hearing.

e. Successfully accredited programs will undergo reaccreditation on the SRC of the originally accredited program(s).

* Specialty Profession Learning Outcomes. The 8.00 series section of the self-study has been eliminated. Programs seeking to accredit professional specialties for which accreditation standards have been established or to accredit track or emphases within their program will use the 7.00 series template format.

**Council Reorganization**

Council Officers for 2014-2015 are Candace Goode Vick, Chair, Julie Lammel, Vice-Chair and Doug Kennedy, Vice-Chair.

Council reappointed Susan Baptist, as a Practitioner Representative.

New members of Council are Dr. Doug Kennedy, as the College/University Administrator Representative and Shavan Brown, as the Public Representative.

Michael Blazey (Administrator Representative) and Rick Harwell (Public Representative) retired from Council after nine and six years of service respectively. Their participation during the multiple revisions of standards, policies, and handbooks, as well as the numerous visitations and hearings, are deeply appreciated.

**Council Status**

There are 80 accredited programs, one initial applicant and nine programs considering accreditation.

**Council Action**

* Resolved 1 condition and placed three programs on warning.
* Conducted 20 hearings.
* Seven Therapeutic Recreation Programs were accredited;
  + Arizona State University
  + San Jose State University
  + California State University Sacramento
  + Brigham Young University
  + University of Utah
  + Winston-Salem State University
  + Texas State University

Other News

* COAPRT continues as a participant in NRPA’s Best of the Best ceremony. Accredited/Reaccredited programs were presented with their certificate while being recognized at the ceremony.
* Council co-sponsored the fifth annual academic Quiz Bowl with NRPA at the

2014 NRPA Congress. Teams of students from accredited programs competed in

the competition with the winning team from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo crowned as the national quiz bowl champion for the third time in the last five years. Council extends appreciation to Dr. Gary Ellis and Dr. Robert Rossman for their continued support of and service to this program.