



Council on Accreditation

Parks, Recreation, Tourism
and Related Professions

Memorandum

To: Accredited Programs and Visitors

From: Candace Goode Vick

Chair, Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions

Re: June 2014 COARPT Communication

Date: June 19, 2014

Greeting Colleagues,

The Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions held its spring meeting on April 24 and May 15, 2014. I am pleased to provide information of the status of our CHEA recognition; revisions in the Council Operating Code, Standards, and Handbook; and other information of interest to accredited programs and visitors. The actions taken by Council are outlined below:

CHEA Update

In its meeting on April 28-29, 2014, The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors granted recognition to COAPRT.

NPRA Personnel Change

Over the summer and fall, Danielle Price will be transitioning out of the day-to-day role supporting COAPRT. Brenda Beales will be stepping in to assist with COAPRT and Eric Hamp will be taking the supervisory responsibility for the accreditation programs. Danielle has been a valuable member of the COAPRT team and we wish her well.

Operating Code Revision

- Page 3: The qualifications for the public representative were revised to read.

D. Membership on the Council

3. Qualifications

- The public representative must be a citizen in good standing in their community, be involved in supporting Parks, Recreation, Tourism in their community, have a bachelor degree or higher, and be endorsed by their employer(if employed) acknowledging support to attend Council meeting and to adequately fulfill their Council duties.

Standard Revisions

- Standard 3.06 – The program has a practice of informing the public about the harm of degree mills and accreditation mills. Expected evidence of compliance was added to bring COPART into compliance with CHEA recognition standards.
 - ***Expected Evidence of Compliance:*** The following statement must appear on the program's website:

Important Information Regarding Degree Mills

Please watch this important video (<http://youtu.be/a1voHNMQDrk>) regarding degree and accreditation mills. According to CHEA, "Degree mills and accreditation mills mislead and harm. In the United States, degrees and certificates from mills may not be acknowledged by other institutions when students seek to transfer or go to graduate school. Employers may not acknowledge degrees and certificates from degree mills when providing tuition assistance for continuing education. "Accreditation" from an accreditation mill can mislead students and the public about the quality of an institution. In the presence of degree mills and accreditation mills, students may spend a good deal of money and receive neither an education nor a useable credential." Read more on CHEA's [website](http://www.chea.org/degremills/) (<http://www.chea.org/degremills/>).

- Standard 3.07 – The program has a practice of informing the public about their COAPRT accredited programs. The expected evidence of compliance was added to bring COPART into compliance with CHEA recognition standards.
 - ***Expected Evidence of Compliance:*** Program must post a statement on their program's website acknowledging the program specific COAPRT accreditation using the correct COAPRT name (the use of the correct COAPRT logo is optional). NOTE: In the event that an academic unit offers additional degree programs not accredited by COAPRT, a clear differentiation must be made between programs that have achieved accredited status and those that have not.

Sample Statement:

... University's Recreation and Program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT). The Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT) accredits baccalaureate programs in parks, recreation, tourism, sport management, event management, therapeutic recreation, and leisure studies offered at regionally accredited institutions within the United States and its territories, and at nationally accredited institutions in Canada, and Mexico.

Handbook Revisions

- Page 16: Learning outcomes assessment is expected to be a continuous process. Council expects to see year-to-year (or semester to semester) results from the implementation of the 2013 standards through the most current self-study. Programs having yet to undergo re-accreditation under the 2013 standards should have results from January 2013 through the preparation of the self-study at a minimum.
- Page 50 **General Feedback to the Council:** Any person (s) wishing to provide feedback to the Council on any council related matter(s), including program accreditation decisions, may do so at any time by emailing their comment(s) to the NRPA Staff Liaison at COAPRT@nrpa.org. The liaison will share the feedback with the Council Chair and/or other Council members as appropriate.

Council Actions

Council resolved conditions/warnings on two programs. One program was placed on warning.

After review of the 2014 Annual reports, two programs were found to be in non-compliance and placed on warning, 40 programs were placed on conditions, and 18 programs were asked to make minor revisions. Programs have until August 1 to bring the identified standard(s) into compliance.

Based on the large number of programs that are scheduled for review in 2015, Council will not be able to extend an invitation to programs to submit assessment plans for Council review and feedback as we have done in the past.

For the Annual Report:

- Council adopted the Graduation Rate definition used by the National Center for Education Statistics, <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/index.asp?id=812>
- Addition of learning outcome questions for each individual program within an academic unit that is COAPRT accredited.

Specialty Update:

Council approved the proposed Learning Outcome Standards for Recreation Resource Planning developed and submitted by the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP).

Implementation of the standards was tabled until the meeting in October, 2014.

Council Membership:

Dr. Doug Kennedy was elected to the Administrator Position on Council and Shavan Brown was elected to the Public Position. Their 3 year terms will begin at the conclusion of the October meeting and hearings.

Council Status:

There are 80 accredited programs, one initial applicant and nine prospective programs. Two programs withdrew. Council will continue outreach efforts to encourage formerly accredited programs, as well as those never having sought accreditation, to consider the benefits of seeking accreditation under the new outcomes-based standards.

Twenty programs were visited during 2014 and will have their hearing this fall at NRPA Congress.

Training Opportunities/Requirements

With 28 visitations scheduled for 2015, Council recorded two online trainings available in the NRPA Online Learning Center – one for visitors and one for programs. In addition, the Council will be hosting an in-person training at the NRPA Congress on Tuesday, October 14th from 1:00pm – 4:15pm – registration is free, but is required.

Per Council policy, individuals interested in serving as visitors are required to participate in training under the 2013 Standards, including those who attended training sessions within the past five years.

Representatives from programs scheduled for visitations in the 2014-15 academic years are required to attend training in compliance with Standard 1.06. Additionally, the Council members will be making themselves available for a live chat or two in late fall.

Links to the Online Training:

- Program Training: <http://www.nrpa.org/Store/detail.aspx?id=DIW00001>
- Visitor Training: <http://www.nrpa.org/Store/detail.aspx?id=DIW00002>
- In-Person Training: <https://nrpa2014.wyndhamjade.com/nrpa2014/registration.html>
(select the option titled “Member A La Carte” if you are only attending this training, and then scroll down to the heading “Additional Training” and select the “COAPRT Visitor Training: The 2013 Standards”).

Please contact COAPRT@nrpa.org if you have any questions. Thank you.