



## Council on Accreditation

Parks, Recreation, Tourism  
and Related Professions

### Memorandum

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To: Accredited Programs and Visitors

From: Mike Blazey *Michael A. Blazey*  
Chair, Council on Accreditation for Recreation, Park Resources and Leisure Services

Re: January 2013 COAPRT Conference Call

Date: January 15, 2013

Greetings Colleagues.

The Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Related Professions held an ad hoc conference call meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 to discuss and adopt changes to the COAPRT 2013 Standards and Handbook designed to bring COAPRT into compliance with the Council on Higher Education (CHEA) accreditation standards.

Please review the information below which outlines these changes. All changes made at the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be assessed by the Council for effectiveness at their Fall 2013 meeting to be held in conjunction with the NRPA 2013 Congress & Exposition in Houston, Texas. We welcome receipt of any comments or concerns no later than Friday, August 23, 2013.

1. We are adding a section to COAPRT's webpage where anyone can provide feedback or ask a question relating to the accreditation process. This is open to the public, as well as to the programs, visitors, and practitioners.
2. In order to assist visitors interpret the status notations on the webpage listing the accredited programs (<http://www.nrpa.org/Professional-Development/Accreditation/COAPRT/COAPRT-Accredited-Academic-Programs>) we will be adding explanatory language to the webpage. This additional content will be consistent with the COAPRT Handbook, explaining what each status notation means.
3. Changes to the 2013 Standards.
  - a. **Addition of Standard 2.04.05** - The program annually posts 7.0 series aggregated data and additional evidence reflecting program academic quality and student achievement on their program and/or departmental website. Such information shall be consistent with FERPA requirements.

*Suggested Additional Evidence of Compliance:* COAPRT 7.0 series template; institutional program assessment report; aggregated results from alumni, intern supervisors, student exit surveys; aggregated results from professional certification examinations; job placement rates; graduate school acceptance rates; program retention, graduation rates or other related university data reflecting program quality.

- b. **Addition of Standard 3.06** - The program has a practice of informing the public about the harm of degree mills and accreditation mills.

*Suggested Evidence of Compliance:* The following COAPRT statement appearing on the program's website and/or printed materials:

**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/degreemills/>).

- c. **Addition of Standard 3.07** - The program has a practice of informing the public about their COAPRT accreditation status.

*Suggested Evidence of Compliance:* Use of the COAPRT logo; a statement acknowledging COAPRT accreditation appearing on the program's website and/or printed materials.

Annual reports will request evidence of compliance with these new standards. COAPRT requests that programs accredited under the 2013 Standards comply with these standards before its fall 2013 hearings.

4. Changes to the COAPRT Handbook:
- a. A modified version of the Annual Progress Report requesting information on compliance with two of the new standards, 2.04.05 and 3.06, is required for the academic year in which the Program undergoes an accreditation review hearing, effective immediately.

- b. Council member review of Annual Progress Reports. Each Council member will review Annual Progress Reports from programs to which they have been assigned, verify submitted information, and identify any standards that are out of compliance. Council review will conclude by the end of April, with members submitting reports on their assigned programs to the Executive Committee and NRPA Liaison. In those cases where standards are found to be out of compliance, the Executive Committee and NRPA Liaison will provide direction for program remediation. Programs will have until the Council meets at their Fall Meeting to bring the identified standard(s) into compliance. If satisfactory remediation has not been made, the program may be assigned Conditions due to noncompliance with the relevant standard(s).
- c. COAPRT Logo Usage Guidelines. Council has added guidelines for the use of the COAPRT logo.