

August 1, 2014

The National Architectural Accrediting Board announces the release of the *2014 Conditions for Accreditation*, which outline the minimum requirements for an accredited, professional education in architecture.

The 2014 *Conditions* go into effect on April 1, 2015 and apply to all accreditation actions and visits scheduled to take place after January 1, 2016. All programs, including candidates, with visits scheduled for 2016 must use the 2014 *Conditions*.

The *2014 Conditions for Accreditation* are the result of three years' collaborative effort between the NAAB, The American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Architecture Students, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Several other scholarly organizations and individuals also contributed to the process.

"This document is the result of an open, transparent, deliberative process. The 2014 edition is a thoughtful and carefully drafted set of *Conditions* that the NAAB believes sets the minimum standards for all accredited programs," said Shannon B. Kraus, FAIA, NAAB president-elect.

The *2014 NAAB Conditions for Accreditation* represents the NAAB's best effort to synthesize the outcomes of the 2013 Accreditation Review Conference and the public comments received since August 2013. The most significant revisions are highlighted here:

- The NAAB has removed all instructions, as well as the long lists of required documents or tables following each condition. This information is now captured in an advisory document that will be revised annually based on best practices, surveys and visit evaluations. The *Guide to the 2014 Conditions for Accreditation and Preparation of an Architecture Program Report* will be published in later in August.
- There are five new perspectives. These identify values and core principles held in common throughout the profession and the academy relative to both the practice and discipline of architecture. The five, new perspectives are:
 - Leadership and Collaboration
 - Design
 - Professional Opportunity
 - Stewardship of the Environment
 - Community and Social Responsibility
- Based on input at ARC13, the NAAB established a perspective on environmental stewardship and also embedded responsibility for the environment and sustainable practices into several SPC. ARC13 participants believed that a stand-alone SCP on sustainability did not sufficiently express the extent to which environmental considerations must be included across the spectrum of design decision-making. As a result, the specific SPC on sustainability was eliminated.
- Conditions I.3, Institutional and Program Characteristics, and I.4 Policy Review have been eliminated. All the material requested under 2009 Conditions I.3.1, I.3.3, and I.4 has been moved to the *Guide* and simplified.

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- The NAAB established a separate realm, Realm C, for integrative design. Professional practice has been moved to Realm D.
- The NAAB reduced the number of SPC to 26. This was achieved by eliminating redundancies and combining SPC where appropriate. Where SPC expressed a value or core principle, they were edited into the new perspectives (e.g., community and social responsibility).
- The NAAB revised the condition on Professional Degrees and Curriculum (II.2.2) in order to:
 - Clarify what courses and content meet the definition for general studies.
 - Remove the burden of remediating general studies requirements for students admitted to M. Arch. or D. Arch. programs that require an undergraduate degree for admission.
 - Make the titles B. Arch., M. Arch. and D. Arch. exclusive to the NAAB-accredited degree.
- There are two new conditions in Public Information (II.4). These are
 - II.4.6 Admissions and Advising
 - II.4.7 Student Financial Information
- Finally, the NAAB sought to re-balance institutional commitment to continuous improvement (Part I) and educational outcomes and curriculum (Part II) with a view toward shifting the time and attention of visiting teams toward Part II. To that end, the NAAB is changing the format for the Architecture Program Report (APR), instructions to teams regarding review of materials that support a program's responses to the requirements of Part I, and the format both for the visit and the Visiting Team Report (VTR). This work is reflected in the *Guide to the 2014 Conditions for Accreditation and Preparation of an Architecture Program Report*, which will be published in later in August and the *2015 Procedures for Accreditation*, now [available](#) for public comment.

Throughout the process, the central attributes of voluntary accreditation have remained:

- Programs are required to document their compliance with the conditions through a comprehensive, self-analytical report.
- A team will visit the program to confirm the results of the report and to document additional compliance through the review of student work, records, and institutional as well as interview and observations.
- The final decision will be made by the NAAB Directors.

In February 2015, the NAAB will issue the *2015 Procedures for Accreditation*. This document will serve as the complement to the *2014 Conditions*. Each should be read in the context of the other as programs prepare for visits and other accreditation actions scheduled after January 1, 2016.

Vision: The NAAB aspires to be the leader in establishing educational quality assurance standards to enhance the value, relevance, and effectiveness of the architectural profession.

Mission: The NAAB develops and maintains a system of accreditation in professional architecture education that is responsive to the needs of society and allows institutions with varying resources and circumstances to evolve according to their individual needs.

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