



January 9, 2024

Dear Program Director,

In 1940, ACSA, AIA, and NCARB collectively recognized the need for an impartial organization to facilitate quality assurance in support of architecture programs that prepare students for professional licensure. Since that time, NAAB has proudly established and maintained an accreditation system that enhances the value, relevance, and effectiveness of the profession of architecture. The cost of this system has been subsidized by the profession. [External funding](#) has been provided by AIA and NCARB, matching the accreditation fees collected by ACSA as part of ACSA's annual member dues, and an additional contribution from AIAS.

While the financial support of these external organizations has enabled NAAB to maintain its steadfast commitment to quality architecture education, the current level of funding does not take into account several important considerations for future sustainability including the growth in programs over the past seven years from 155 to 185, NAAB's return to post-pandemic operations, expanded services to programs as the Conditions and Procedures evolved to incorporate contemporary field-based accreditation practices, and the challenges of the current economy. As the funding agreement with ACSA, AIA, AIAS, and NCARB was nearing completion in 2022, NAAB engaged the organizations in discussions regarding future funding and sustainability, taking into account these financial realities. At the present time, AIA and NCARB are still exploring the level of their potential future contributions to NAAB.

As NAAB continues our commitment to supporting programs, students, the field of architecture, and consumer safety in the coming years, NAAB anticipates the need to transition to a different funding model. The new model will involve charging accreditation fees directly to programs. This is a common practice among accrediting organizations. Of sixty-one professional accrediting boards, NAAB is one of the only accreditors that does not utilize a structure in which fees are charged directly to programs. (For further information on fee structures and types of fees typically charged by accrediting boards, see Appendix A below.)

Under NAAB's proposed new structure, the amount charged to programs will depend upon any offsetting contributions from NAAB's supporting organizations. In addition to our ongoing discussions with AIA and NCARB, we are also inviting contributions from ACSA and AIAS. We will also continue to explore other funding sources, in order to reduce fees that may be charged to programs.

Assuming no offsetting contributions, the proposed fee schedule for 2025 would consist of an annual fee ranging from \$7,955 to \$12,500 depending on program size. Other program costs would include one-time and/or occasional fees, such as: \$600 eligibility application

fee for new programs, \$3,000 for Architecture Program Reports, and \$1,200 per visitor for site visits. For more detail in the proposed distribution of fees through 2028, please see Appendix B below. Note that not all of these fees will be net-new to programs, as this structure would remove the accreditation fees that have been collected as part of ACSA's annual member dues.

On February 1, 2024, NAAB will issue a public call for comment for a period of 90 days providing a detailed description of the new fee structure proposed to initiate in January of 2025 and continue through 2028.

NAAB is putting forward a multi-year fee structure because it is keenly aware of the need for transparency, fairness, and advance notice to programs. This is especially so, understanding that the budgeting process for universities is often lengthy and complex and requires predictability. Therefore, NAAB is committed to relying on its reserves as it further develops this new fee structure and will not directly charge programs for accreditation fees before 2025.

In order to answer questions and provide additional details, NAAB will host a live discussion session for programs on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 5:00pm–6:30pm EST. NAAB is also open to scheduling additional Q & A sessions for programs as needed. Please stay tuned for registration information.

For any questions, please contact the NAAB office [here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Schreiber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Schreiber, FAIA, DPACSA
2023-2024 NAAB President

Appendix A

Fee Types Typically Assessed by Accrediting Boards

Customary Fee Types	NAAB Proposed Fee Types
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility Application Fee • Self-Study Fee • Site Visit Fee (based on number of team members) • Annual Fee • Late Fee • Appeal Fee • Branch Application Fee • Substantive Change Fee • Consultation Fee • Extension Fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility Application Fee • APR Fee • Site Visit Fee (based on number of team members) • Annual Fee • Late Fee • Appeal Fee

Appendix B

Highest Potential* NAAB Accreditation Fee Structure, 2025-2028

Fee		2025	2026	2027	2028	
Eligibility Fee		\$600	\$625	\$650	\$700	
APR Fee		\$3,000	\$3,150	\$3,300	\$3,475	
Site Visit Fee (Per Site Visitor)		\$1,200	1,250	\$1,300	\$1,375	
Annual Fee	<u>Tier</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>				
	1	1-49 Students	\$7,955	\$8,345	\$8,770	\$9,205
	2	50-99 Students	\$8,905	\$9,345	\$9,820	\$10,305
	3	100-249 Students	\$9,970	\$10,465	\$10,995	\$11,540
	4	250-499 Students	\$11,165	\$11,720	\$12,310	\$12,925
	5	500+ Students	\$12,500	\$13,125	\$13,785	\$14,475

*NAAB will continue to explore other funding sources to reduce the fees charged to the programs.