

AIAS and NAAB: Serving on Visiting Teams

NAAB

**National Architectural
Accrediting Board, Inc.**

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What We'll Talk About Today...

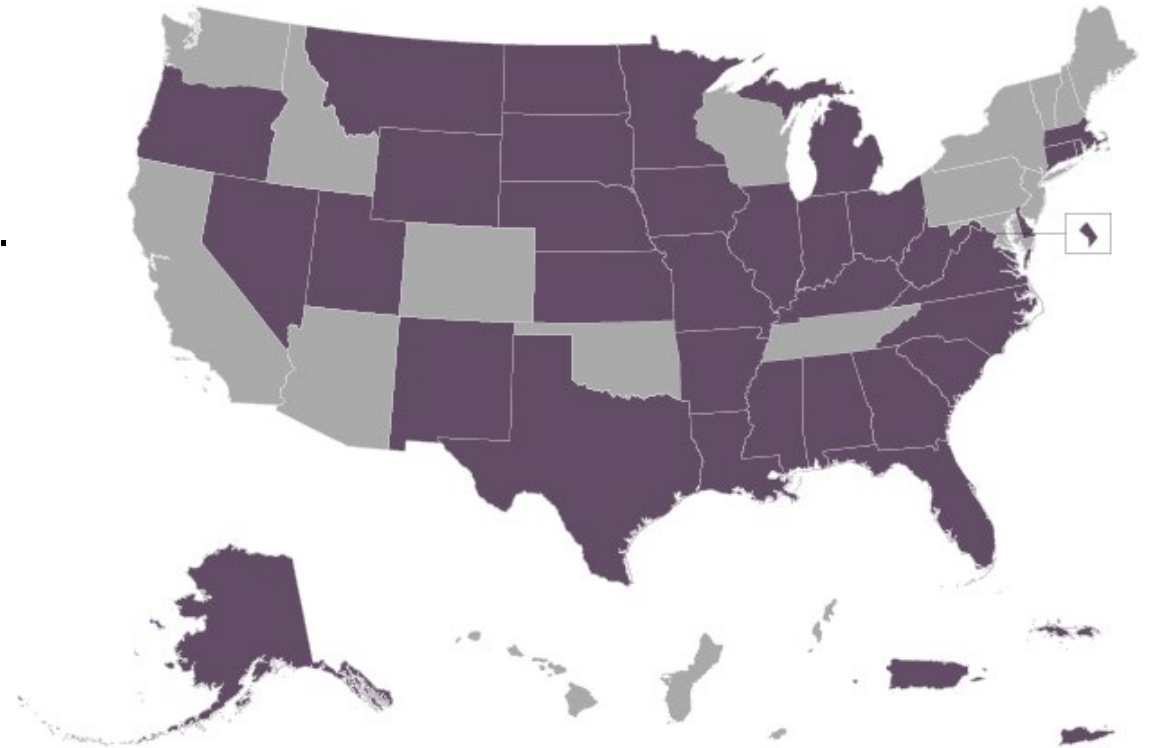
- What is accreditation?
- Why is accreditation important?
- Who do we accredit?
- NAAB accreditation process
- Examples of NAAB Conditions
- How can you serve?
- Responsibilities of team members
- What's it like to serve on a site visit?
- Why should you serve on a NAAB team?

What is Accreditation?

- Process of external quality review used to scrutinize colleges, universities, and educational programs for quality assurance and quality improvement.
- In the US, it is carried out by private, nonprofit organizations designed for this purpose.
- Institutions and programs seek accreditation to demonstrate academic quality to students and the public.
- Any accreditation system includes five core elements:
 - The evaluation is carried out by a non-profit, non-governmental organization.
 - The program or institution prepares a self-evaluation report.
 - The program or institution hosts a visit by a team.
 - Judgments are made by peers who are trained.
 - The program has opportunities to respond to the process at certain points along the way.

Why is Accreditation Important?

- Important way to know that an institution or program provides a quality education.
 - Architecture is regulated at the state level. The NAAB-accredited degree meets the education requirement for registration in all 55 U.S. jurisdictions; **it is required in 38.**
- Provide a framework to develop programs and processes that meet standards for architectural education while expressing an identity and profile unique to the institution
- Helps demonstrate that architecture programs are preparing graduates with the knowledge and skills needed for the next steps in their careers, including experience and examination.



What is NAAB?

- The National Architectural Accrediting Board
- Founded in 1940 by ACSA, AIA, and NCARB to accredit schools of architecture in the United States. These collateral organizations, later joined by AIAS after its founding in 1956, provide financial support.
- **Mission:** NAAB develops and maintains an accreditation system in professional degree education that enhances the value, relevance, and effectiveness of the profession of architecture.

Who Do We Accredit?

- 173 NAAB-accredited programs at 137 institutions
- 3 international programs
- 3 degrees
 - Bachelor of Architecture
 - Master of Architecture
 - Doctor of Architecture

NAAB Accreditation Process

- **Self-study:** The Architecture Program Report (APR)
- **Verification:** Site visit (virtual through 2024)
 - Teams are composed of at least 4 people: a practitioner, an educator, a regulator, a student selected from team pool.
- **Visiting team report (VTR):** Conditions met and not met
- **Action by the Board:** Accreditation status and term of accreditation
- **Ongoing compliance review:** Annual Report, IPR/Plan to Correct

Example of NAAB Conditions:

5.6 Physical Resources

- The program must describe its physical resources and demonstrate how they safely and equitably support the program's pedagogical approach and student and faculty achievement. Physical resources include but are not limited to the following:
 - 5.6.1: Space to support and encourage studio-based learning.
 - 5.6.2: Space to support and encourage didactic and interactive learning, including lecture halls, seminar spaces, small group study rooms, labs, shops, and equipment.
 - 5.6.3: Space to support and encourage the full range of faculty roles and responsibilities, including preparation for teaching, research, mentoring, and student advising.
 - 5.6.4: Resources to support all learning formats and pedagogies in use by the program.
- If the program's pedagogy does not require some or all of the above physical resources, the program must describe the effect (if any) that online, off-site, or hybrid formats have on digital and physical resources.

Example of NAAB Conditions

SC. 4 Technical Knowledge

- How the program ensures that students understand the established and emerging systems, technologies, and assemblies of building construction, and the methods and criteria architects use to assess those technologies against the design, economics, and performance objectives of projects.
 - Programs should provide:
 - A narrative description of how the program achieves and evaluates this criterion.
 - How it assesses its achievement of this, the results, how it has used the results to make improvements
 - Supporting materials: course syllabus, course schedule, instructional materials
 - Team members verify and document that:
 1. The program engages in assessment of each criterion on a recurring basis
 2. The program makes modifications to its curricula and/or associated program structure based on findings from assessment

How Can You Serve?

- Volunteer to serve as a member of a team evaluating architecture programs for accreditation decisions (“site visits”).
- Be an advocate for architectural accreditation by explaining its value to excellence in architectural education.
- Talk to your faculty about how your program engages with accreditation.
- Participate in your program’s accreditation visit.

Responsibilities of Team Members

- Register with AIAS as a volunteer
- Register your availability for participating in team visits
- Complete the required team training
- Confirm team participation not less than 8 weeks before visit
- Review Conflicts of Interest policy and verify that no COI exists
- Review accreditation standards, procedures, and guidelines
- Review the program materials and evidence
- Participate in meetings with team and attend all meetings during the site visit
- Participate in writing the Visiting Team Report
- Complete an assessment and evaluation survey after the visit

What's It Like to Serve on a Site Visit?

- Pre-visit:
 - Complete the training
 - Prepare for visit by reading Architecture Program Report and reviewing evidence
 - Attend multiple pre-visit meetings with team (virtually)
- During visit:
 - Small group meetings with faculty, program leadership, student leaders
 - Tour of facilities (virtual through 2023)
 - **All-student meeting** (typically led by AIAS member on visiting team)
 - Working sessions with team to review evidence
 - Working sessions with team to draft Visiting Team Report

What's It Like to Serve on a Site Visit?

- What will you do for the All-Student Meeting?
 - Introduce the team and explain the purpose of the meeting
 - Facilitate the conversation, asking team members to respond as needed
 - Request feedback from students on issues the team has identified before or during the visit
 - Ask questions to confirm observations or claims the program has made
 - Ask follow-up questions on issues as they arise during the conversation

Why Should You Serve on a NAAB Team?



- It's an opportunity to serve to improve the quality of education for your peers and future architects.
- It provides you with an opportunity to gain leadership and collaboration experience.
- You get to meet and work with fellow team members – practitioners, regulators, and educators – that can help you form a strong network for education and career mentorship and professional opportunities.
- You'll learn more about best practices in architecture education at universities around the country and internationally.
- **Why do you think you should serve?**

Thank You!

Questions?

Please send them to
accreditation@naab.org



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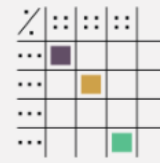
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May 1st is fast approaching! What resources will use to determine where to attend architecture school? Read this helpful resource to...

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