

Draft II: Proposed Revisions to the *Handbook 2022-23*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF ART AND DESIGN

September 11, 2023

OFFICIAL NOTICE. This constitutes the official notice of proposed revisions to the *Handbook* forwarded in advance as required by the NASAD Bylaws and Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II.

Note: All proposed revisions are indicated in red.

VOTE SCHEDULED. A final text of these proposed revisions will be presented to the NASAD Commission on Accreditation and NASAD membership for a vote in October.

Rationales for these changes are provided at the end of the document on page 6.

COMMENT PERIOD II

September 11–October 11, 2023

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Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

— Action by the NASAD Commission on Accreditation —

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Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

Article I., Institutional Membership

Section 4. Accreditation and Institutional Autonomy

Amend Article I., Section 4. as follows:

Section 4. Accreditation and Institutional Autonomy. NASAD has established standards for accreditation that are applied only at the invitation of institutions. These standards are developed and approved by accredited member institutions acting autonomously. The standards provide benchmarks for reviewing the extent to which operational, curricular, and evaluative functions associated with particular degree programs and areas of study are being fulfilled.

As they evolve, NASAD standards for accreditation are continuously designed to allow considerable variation within broad principles applicable to degree programs and areas of study. Failure to meet the exact provisions of a specific standard will not preclude accreditation if it can be shown that artistic, intellectual, educational, and developmental functions indicated by the standard are and can continue to be fulfilled by appropriate means.

NASAD standards are applied with profound respect for the rights and responsibilities of institutions and programs to identify, designate, and control (a) their missions, goals, and objectives; (b) artistic, educational, and philosophical principles and methodologies used to pursue functions implicit in their various missions, goals, and objectives; (c) specific works, texts, and other teaching materials utilized for study and presentation; (d) agendas and areas of study pursued through scholarship, research, criticism, and policy development; (e) specific personnel choices, staffing configurations, and other operational decisions; and (f) content and methodologies of tests, evaluations, and assessments.

Respect for institutional mission as required in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article I., Section 4., paragraph 3., and throughout the Association's published materials includes respect for religious mission. **NASAD bases its decisions regarding accreditation on its published standards and shall not use as a negative factor the institution's religious mission-based policies, decisions, and practices in consideration of areas related to art and design such as curricula; faculty; facilities, equipment, and supplies; student support services; and recruiting and admissions practices, academic calendars, publications, grading, and advertising. NASAD may require an institution to include in its curricular programs all core components as specified in applicable standards.**

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Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

Article X., Appeals of Adverse Decisions Concerning Accredited Institutional Membership

Section 10. Decision on an Appeal

Amend Article X., Section 10. as follows:

Section 10. Decision on an Appeal. After following requisite procedures, considering the appeal and responding to it only in terms of one or both of the grounds for appeal in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article X., Section 5., and making judgments based solely on NASAD published standards and procedures and the documentation provided, the appeals committee's final decision shall be either to (a) deny the appeal and sustain the decision of the Commission, or (b) sustain the appeal and remand the decision to the Commission for reconsideration **explaining the basis for the decision to remand, including, but not limited to, any amendments to the original decision proposed by the appeals committee by identifying specific issues the Commission must address including, but not limited to the appeals committee's decision regarding amendments to or a reversal of the original decision.** In making its final decision, the Commission must act in a manner consistent with **published NASAD standards and procedures, and with due consideration of all written findings and recommendations of the appeals committee accompanying its decision to remand the appeals panel's decisions or instructions.**

The final decision of the appeals committee shall be distributed to the art/design executive and the chief executive officer of the institution and to the Chair of the Commission whose decision is being appealed.

An institution's continuing disagreement with a final decision of the appeals committee to deny the appeal shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Rules of the American Arbitration Association. Arbitration considers only items (a) and (b) of the Grounds for Appeal outlined in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article X., Section 5.

Standards for Accreditation

— Action by the NASAD Membership —

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Standards for Accreditation

III. Art and Design Program Components

H. Distance Learning

3. Standards Applications

Amend III.H.3. as follows:

3. Standards Applications

- a. Distance learning programs must meet all NASAD operational and curricular standards for programs of their type and content. This means that the functions and competencies required by applicable standards are met even when distance learning mechanisms predominate in the total delivery system.
- b. Institutions approved by NASAD to offer art and design programs delivered either entirely or partially ~~Programs in which 40% or more of their requirements are fulfilled~~ through distance learning means will be designated as such ~~distance learning programs~~ in NASAD publications.
- c. Institutions approved by NASAD to offer distance learning programs shall provide, in institutional publications as appropriate, a listing, or designation, or indication of all art and design programs offered either entirely or partially through distance learning means. Institutions shall designate in publications whether required courses are offered through distance learning and/or on ground means.

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Standards for Accreditation

XXI. Specific Operational Standards for all Institutions of Higher Education for which NASAD is the Designated Institutional Accreditor

Section 1. Standards for Accreditation

K. Teach-Out Plans and Agreements

2. Conditions of Applicability

Amend XXI., Section 1.K.2.b. as follows:

- b. NASAD requires an accredited institution to which Standards for Accreditation XXI. apply to submit a teach-out plan and, if practicable, teach-out agreements requesting Commission review and action upon the occurrence of any of the following events:
 1. The U.S. Secretary of Education notifies NASAD that:
 - i. it has placed the institution on the reimbursement payment method under 34 CFR 668.162(c) or the heightened cash monitoring payment method requiring the Secretary's review of the institution's supporting documentation under 34 CFR 668.162(d)(2);
 - ii. the Secretary has initiated an emergency action against an institution, in accordance with section 487(c)(1)(G) of the Higher Education Act (HEA), or an action to limit, suspend, or terminate an institution participating in any Title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) program, in accordance with section 487(c)(1)(F) of the Higher Education Act (HEA).

- NASAD acts to withdraw, revoke, or suspend the accreditation of the institution.

NOTE: Under such conditions, NASAD may maintain the institution’s accreditation until the institution has had reasonable time to complete the activities in its teach-out plan or to fulfill the obligations of any teach-out agreement to assist students in transferring or completing their programs.

- The institution notifies NASAD that it intends to cease operations entirely or close a location that provides one hundred percent of at least one program.
- A state licensing or authorizing agency notifies NASAD that an institution’s license or legal authorization to provide an educational program has been or will be revoked.
- The institution stops offering an educational program before all students enrolled in that program complete the program or transfer to another program.

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Standards for Accreditation

XXI. Specific Operational Standards for all Institutions of Higher Education for which NASAD is the Designated Institutional Accreditor

Section 2. Procedural Requirements

E. Starting a Branch Campus or Similar Entity

Amend XXI., Section 2.E.2. as follows:

- Within six months of the opening of a branch campus or similar entity, the branch/similar entity must schedule a **site** visit and host a team of NASAD visiting evaluators, **and the team must conduct and complete the visit.**

Appendix I.A.

— Action by the NASAD Membership —

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Appendix I.A., Standards and Guidelines Pertaining to Branch Campuses and Other Entities

Section 2. Guidelines

Amend Section 2.B. as follows:

- A branch campus, **or similarly functioning entity**, is **typically considered** an additional location of an institution that is geographically apart and independent of the main campus of the institution and **typically**:
 - is permanent in nature;
 - offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential;
 - has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization; and
 - has its own budgetary and hiring authority.

**Appendix I.A., Standards and Guidelines Pertaining to Branch Campuses and Other Entities
Section 2. Guidelines**

Amend Section 2.C. as follows:

- C. An additional location, **or similarly functioning entity**, is ~~typically considered~~ a facility geographically apart from the main campus of the institution at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of a program and may qualify as a branch campus.

Appendix III.F.

— Action by the NASAD Membership —

Appendix III.F., Policies Concerning Regard for Decisions of States and Other Accrediting Organizations in the NASAD Accreditation Process

Section 1. Institutions Offering Visual Art/Design Curricular Programs Only

Amend Section 1. as follows:

Section 1. Institutions Offering Visual Art/Design Curricular Programs Only

- A. NASAD accredits only those independent postsecondary institutions offering degree- or non-degree-granting curricular programs in visual art/design that are legally authorized under applicable state law to provide a program of education beyond the secondary level.
- B. NASAD does not renew the accreditation of an independent postsecondary institution during a period in which the institution:
 - 1. Is the subject of an interim action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation.
 - 2. Is the subject of an interim action by a state agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of the institution’s legal authority to provide postsecondary education.
 - 3. Has been notified of a threatened loss of accreditation, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed.
 - 4. Has been notified of a threatened suspension, revocation, or termination by the state of the institution’s legal authority to provide postsecondary education, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed.
- C. In considering whether to grant initial accreditation to an independent postsecondary institution, NASAD takes into account actions by:
 - 1. Recognized institutional accrediting agencies that have denied accreditation or preaccreditation to the institution, placed the institution on public probationary status, or revoked the accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution.
 - 2. A state agency that has suspended or revoked the institution’s legal authority to provide postsecondary education.

- D. If the Commission grants accreditation to an independent postsecondary institution notwithstanding the actions described in Section 1.B. or C., NASAD provides the U.S. Secretary of Education, not later than thirty days after the date of Commission action, a thorough explanation, consistent with its accreditation standards, why the previous action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency or the state does not preclude a grant of accreditation status.
- E. NASAD will promptly review its accreditation of an independent postsecondary institution to determine if it should also take adverse action against the institution if:
 - 1. A recognized institutional accrediting agency takes an adverse action with respect to a dually accredited institution.
 - ~~2. A recognized institutional accrediting agency places the institution on public probationary status.~~
 - 2. ~~3.~~ A recognized programmatic accrediting agency takes an adverse action, for reasons associated with the overall institution rather than the specific program ~~or~~, against a program offered by an institution ~~or~~ places the program on public probation.
- F. NASAD will promptly review its accreditation of an independent postsecondary institution to determine if it should place the institution on probation or show cause if:
 - 1. A recognized institutional accrediting agency places the institution on public probationary or an equivalent status.
 - 2. A recognized programmatic agency places the program on public probation or an equivalent status.

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Appendix III.F., Policies Concerning Regard for Decisions of States and Other Accrediting Organizations in the NASAD Accreditation Process

Section 2. Multipurpose Institutions Offering Visual Art/Design Curricular Programs

Amend Section 2.D. as follows:

- D. NASAD will promptly review its accreditation of a multipurpose institution offering one or more visual art/design curricular programs to determine if it should also take ~~adverse~~ action against the program if a ~~recognized institutional accrediting agency~~:
 - 1. ~~A recognized institutional accrediting agency T~~takes an adverse action with respect to the institution offering the program, ~~or~~,
 - 2. Places the institution on public probationary status.

NOTE: Rationale for Changes

The rationale for all changes proposed above is as follows: To align with federal regulation and guidelines.