

# ASPA Code of Good Practice

The ASPA Code of Good Practice provides guiding principles for members in conducting the accreditation process.

***An accrediting organization holding membership in the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors:***

**1. Promotes quality in education through accreditation processes that:**

- a. Focus on student learning as defined by institutional and programmatic missions and goals.
- b. Evaluate educational quality in an unbiased manner.
- c. Encourage institutions and programs to provide pertinent, clear and accessible public information about student achievement.

**2. Conducts accreditation processes with integrity and professionalism that:**

- a. Maintain autonomy and integrity in governance and operations through appropriate relationships, practices and avoidance of conflict of interest.
- b. Create, document and implement policies and procedures to ensure fair and consistent application of standards and decision making that includes due process, confidentiality, and expedient response to appeals and complaints.
- c. Develop, review and revise standards and accreditation procedures on a regular basis with the participation of communities of interest.
- d. Maintain sufficient financial, personnel, and other resources for effective operations, while ensuring efficient and cost-effective accreditation processes for institutions and programs.
- e. Cooperate with other accrediting organizations wherever possible to avoid conflicting standards and to minimize duplication of effort by institutions and programs.
- f. Provide evaluations to assist institutions and programs in developing their own approaches and solutions, making a clear distinction between accreditation requirements and recommendations for improvement.
- g. Provide accurate, clear, accessible, and timely information to communities of interest about accreditation: standards, procedures and status of institutions and programs.
- h. Maintain an effective training and professional development program for all accreditation staff and volunteers.
- i. Ensure that site teams have the appropriate expertise and experience for each specific review.
- j. Include periodic evaluations of the accreditation process that incorporate input from accredited institutions and programs.

**3. Respects institutional independence and academic freedom through accrediting activities that:**

- a. Encourage institutional freedom to make academic decisions while fulfilling the commitment to the accreditation requirements of the profession.
- b. Promote the rights of institutions and programs to determine and implement missions and goals.
- c. Encourage experimentation, innovation, and thoughtful change that meets the needs of the profession, students and the communities served.

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