



ACSP

Connecting educators,
researchers and students

Understanding External Relations of ACSP

ACSP | www.acsp.org

Members

ACSP is a consortium of U.S. and Canadian based university departments and programs offering planning degrees. In addition to full membership, it also has an Affiliate category of membership for schools with planning degrees outside of the U.S. and Canada, or that offer degrees related to planning. The Individual Members involved with the ACSP are faculty not in member schools outlined above, retired faculty, and students.

Mission

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning promotes education, research, service and outreach in the United States and throughout the world by seeking to:

- recognize diverse needs and interests in planning;
- improve and enhance the accreditation process, and;
- strengthen the role of planning education in colleges and universities through publications, conferences, and community engagement;
- extend planning beyond the classroom into the world of practice.

Governing Body

The ACSP Governing Board consists of voting and non-voting members. The seventeen voting members are the four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), the Past President, ten regional representatives, and two student representatives appointed by the President. The non-voting members are the three academic members of the PAB appointed by the ACSP President, the Editor(s) of the Journal of Planning Education and Research, and the ACSP appointed representative to GPEAN.

Liaisons to the Governing Board

The Bylaws include descriptions of liaisons to the Governing Board to facilitate and encourage the pursuit and achievement of the purposes of the Association in regard to worldwide understanding. They are not official members of the board, but invited to attend and provide summary reports of their on-going activities in relation to the ACSP mission:

Special Interest Group Liaisons - Leaders of officially designated interest groups of the Association. Currently these groups include:

- Faculty Women's Interest Group (FWIG)
- Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG)
- Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG)

- Queers and Trans in Planning Interest Group (QTIG)

International Programs Liaisons: These are established by the Governing Board from time-to-time, as interest from or in geographic areas arises. Currently this includes

- Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)
- International Association for China Planning (IACP)

Organizational Liaisons: Leaders of other organizations with similar purposes and interest in advancement of the ACSP mission. Currently this includes the PAB, the APA and AICP.

- **American Planning Association (APA)** - Students in ACSP member schools become professional planners and may join the APA. ACSP full members have access to the APA Academic Membership Program, which offers reduced membership costs for departments and programs. Individual faculty may also opt for membership in APA. ACSP member schools are encouraged to sign up all students for free APA student membership.
- **Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)** - ACSP member schools are encouraged to become accredited and ACSP works with PAB to provide ongoing education about accreditation standards.
- **American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)** - ACSP faculty may become AICP Certified. The ACSP conference provides certification maintenance credits for annual renewal of the certification. ACSP member schools are encouraged to share information about the AICP Candidate Program with their students.

External Appointments by ACSP

To PAB - ACSP appoints three faculty to the PAB Board of Directors. These three faculty also act as ex-officio members of the ACSP Governing Board.

To PAB Site Visitor Pool - The ACSP PAB Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the ACSP President for nominations of faculty to become PAB Site Visitors.

To Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN) - ACSP appoints one representative faculty from a member school to act as the ACSP Liaison to the GPEAN board.

Membership Dues

ACSP member schools pay annual membership dues for the academic year. ACSP Individual members pay annual dues on an anniversary date of first joining.

[PAB | www.planningaccreditationboard.org](http://www.planningaccreditationboard.org)

Description

PAB is a standalone 501c3 organization jointly sponsored by the ACSP, the APA and the APA's professional institute, the AICP. The collaboration reflects an assumption that all parties to the planning enterprise – practitioners, educators, students, elected officials, and citizens – have a vital stake in the quality of the nation's programs of planning education.

“Members”	The Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) doesn’t have “members” but accredits university programs in North America offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees in planning. Accreditation is an independent, voluntary process.
Mission & Function	<p>PAB’s mission is to promote excellence among planning programs and ensure high quality education for future urban planners. In order to accomplish its mission, PAB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredits graduate and undergraduate planning programs in North America. • Mentors programs to further academic excellence in professional education. • Collects and provides data on the state of planning education (student profiles, performance, placement, effectiveness, etc.). • Strengthens professional education in partnership with its sponsors: the ACSP (Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning), the AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners), and APA (the American Planning Association).
Sponsoring Organizations	American Planning Association, American Institute of Certified Planners, and Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.
Governing Body	<p>The sponsoring organizations appoint the 8-member board.</p> <p>PAB standards are developed with input from the public and the APA, AICP and ACSP.</p>
Financial Structure	<p>Schools pay fees to become accredited and to maintain their accreditation. Most are ACSP members, and thus their fees together constitute ACSP’s contribution to PAB.</p> <p>The three sponsoring organizations (ACSP, APA, AICP) match-fund the operations.</p>
External Membership	<p>PAB is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors and adheres to the ASPA Code of Good Practice.</p> <p>PAB is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and adheres to the CHEA Recognition Policy and undergoes periodic review.</p>
Myths Busted	<p>Planning programs do not need to be PAB accredited to be members of ACSP.</p> <p>Planning programs do not need to be ACSP members to be PAB accredited.</p> <p>PAB is a standalone 501c3 organization, not governed by ACSP, APA/AICP.</p>

[American Planning Association | www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)

Mission & Function APA provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in planning, promoting education and citizen

empowerment, and providing our members with the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

- Professional Development and AICP Certification
- Conferences and Education
- Outreach, Policy and Partnerships
- Research
- Publications

Governing Body

APA is governed by its Board of Directors, who are elected from among the membership of the Association. The Board is chaired by the APA President and sets broad policy for the Association and governs its affairs. Day-to-day operations are managed by APA staff. Board members serve four-year terms. Terms are staggered, so half of the board is elected biennially. APA's Board has 13 members, as well as three Advisors, who are the elected leaders of the councils of our component groups, and advise the Board on matters related to Chapters, Divisions and Students.

A Council of all the incumbent Presidents of Chapters meets as a body to advise the APA Board of Directors, and to exchange views and information on matters of common concern.

A Council of all the incumbent Chairs of Divisions meets as an advisory body to the APA Board of Directors and to exchange views and information on matters of common concern.

A Council of APA's Student Representatives develops advice to the APA Board of Directors on services to students and on the evolving character of the profession.

The Foundation Board is charged with governing the activities of the Foundation.

Membership & Dues

Members are individuals including professional planners, students, commissioners and planning board members, academics, allied professionals and interested citizens. Members pay annual membership dues based on a sliding scale according to salary range. Members can also opt to package AICP dues along with their APA dues.

Student membership – Membership is free for students actively enrolled in any university or college degree program. "Free" includes APA, APA state chapter, and AICP membership as well as membership in up to five APA divisions. Student members are eligible for two years of reduced dues after ending their studies. APA partners with ACSP member departments and programs to bring APA membership and benefits to students.

Academic Membership Program – Departments and programs that are full members of ACSP are invited to enroll their faculty as academic members in APA. Academic members receive additional benefits in addition to all standard APA benefits. Participating departments and programs pay a fixed annual fee and substantially reduced dues for individual faculty members. Participating schools are required to enroll all faculty members with the rank

of assistant professor or above who devote at least half their time to the planning program. Schools may enroll certain other faculty as well. Schools pay an annual participation fee and APA national and chapter dues — both set significantly below regular member dues — for each individual member. Schools may choose to pay AICP dues, also at a reduced rate, for faculty who belong to the American Institute of Certified Planners. The academic membership year is October 1-September 30.

Internal Organizations

The American Institute of Certified Planners is the APA's professional institute and is responsible for the national certification of professional planners.

APA Foundation – The APA Foundation exists to deepen and spread the impact of planning across all our communities through planning research, scholarships and community assistance.

[AICP | www.planning.org/aicp/](http://www.planning.org/aicp/)

Participants

AICP Certification candidates must meet specific criteria for education and experience in order to sit for an exam to become AICP certified. Those who pass the exam pay dues and are required to maintain their credential by earning mandatory credits on an annual basis. The AICP Candidate Pilot Program allows students and graduates of PAB accredited programs to take the certification exam immediately following graduation and then complete the requisite planning experience requirement to achieve full certification.

Mission/Function

The American Institute of Certified Planners is APA's professional institute and provides the only nationwide, independent verification of planners' qualifications. Certified planners pledge to uphold high standards of practice, ethics, and professional conduct, and to keep their skills sharp and up to date by continuously pursuing advanced professional education.

- Community Planning Assistance Teams
- Community Assistance Workshops
- Student Outstanding Student and Student Project Awards
- AICP Symposium

Governing Body

The AICP Commission is the eight-member governing body of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Day-to-day operations are managed by APA staff. The APA Executive Director and CEO also serves as AICP Executive Director.

CM Providers

ACSP is a Certification Maintenance (CM) provider. CM providers are educational organizations approved by AICP to provide continuing education activities and events for CM credits. Attending the ACSP Annual Conference can earn some of the required annual CM credits.

Myth Busted

AICP is a certification credential, not a membership.

[GPEAN | https://www.gpean-planning.org/](https://www.gpean-planning.org/)

Members

The Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN) is a network of university level programs and schools in urban and regional planning. Members are national or multi-national associations that serve the needs of university planning programs in their countries and regions.” In addition to the ACSP, the other organizations include:

- ACUPP Association of Canadian University Planning Programs
- AAPS Association of African Planning Schools
- APERAU Association for the Promotion of Education and Research in Urban and Regional Planning, or Aménagement et Urbanisme
- AESOP Association of European Schools of Planning
- APSA Asian Planning Schools Association
- ANZAPS Australian and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools
- ALEUP Latin American Association of Schools of Urbanism and Planning
- ANPUR National Association of Urban and Regional Post-Graduate Programs - Brazil
- TUPOB Association of Planning Schools of Turkey
- ASPI Association of Indonesian Planning Schools

Governing Body

GPEAN is governed by a Council that includes one representative from each of the eleven member planning school associations.

Mission/Function

The purposes of GPEAN is to facilitate international communication on equal terms amongst the university planning communities in order to improve the quality and visibility of planning pedagogy, research and practice, and to promote ethical, sustainable, multi-cultural, gender-sensitive, participatory planning.