

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Adams
Associate Professor of Public Administration
California State University, Fullerton

CC: Amir Dabirian
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
California State University, Fullerton

FROM: Angela M. Eikenberry, Chair
Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation
Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration

DATE: July 11, 2025

SUBJECT: NASPAA Accreditation Review

On behalf of the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA), I am pleased to inform you that the Commission found your Master of Public Administration program to be in substantial conformity with NASPAA Standards, subject to the monitoring provisions outlined in the enclosed report. Your program is accredited through August 31, 2031, and will be included on the Annual Roster of Accredited Programs.

Please accept the Commission's congratulations on the accreditation of your program. By pursuing and achieving accreditation through a rigorous peer review, your program has demonstrated a substantial commitment to quality public service education. You are part of the global community of over 200 accredited graduate programs in public service.

Your program is in substantial conformance with the NASPAA Standards. However, the Commission concluded that questions remain about the following Standard:

- Standard 3.2

Accordingly, COPRA plans to monitor your continued progress annually on this specific Standard. Monitoring will continue until COPRA determines the program has addressed the questions or concerns regarding the specific Standard(s) outlined. The Commission asks that you report your progress on this particular Standard each year in your annual accreditation maintenance report. We look forward to receiving your 2024-2025 annual accreditation maintenance report by **November 1, 2025**.

If you have any questions about this decision or NASPAA's accreditation process, I would be happy to answer any questions you have via email at angela.eikenberry@uconn.edu. Questions about this year's annual report should be directed to copra@naspaa.org.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Eikenberry'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Angela M. Eikenberry, Chair
Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation

**Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation
Report on Monitoring Provisions**

**Master of Public Administration
California State University, Fullerton
July 11, 2025**

Item 1: Standard 3.2 – Faculty Diversity

Standard 3.2 states, “The program will promote equity, diversity, and a climate of inclusiveness through its recruitment, retention, and support of faculty members.”

In the Interim Report, the Commission requested a comprehensive update on the status of the program’s DEI plan, citing the need for specific details of the plan and the processes guiding its implementation.

In its response to the Interim Report, the program noted it had a complete DEI plan with metrics. Furthermore, the program established faculty recruitment and retention objectives, created mentorship opportunities, and implemented climate assessment procedures.

The Site Visit Team stated in its report,

The DEI Plan was developed through a participatory process in conjunction with the MPA strategic planning process. The SVT also observed that implementation evidence is still developing. While many initiatives are well-documented, the site team found that full assessment and impact evaluation of these initiatives remains ongoing. The program intends to finalize its strategic plan by the end of Spring 2025, meaning some areas—particularly student and alumni engagement—are still evolving. While the DEI Plan is well-structured, full implementation is still in progress.

In its Program Final Response, the program stated, “Our next steps will focus on assessing the impact of these efforts over time and embedding DEI into our broader strategic implementation plan.”

Given the newness of the program’s DEI plan, the Commission seeks updates on the implementation of the plan in upcoming annual maintenance reports. COPRA asks the program to elaborate on how the new DEI plan integrates into the program’s strategic plan. Further, the Commission seeks ongoing updates in upcoming annual maintenance reports regarding the program’s faculty climate as it relates to the promotion of equity, diversity, and a climate of inclusiveness through its recruitment, retention, and support of faculty members.

Over time, the Commission expects that programs will continue to develop and implement their approach to strategic program management, including student learning assessment, and that this maturation will be evident in the program’s annual accreditation maintenance reports. As the public service field continues to advance and evolve, COPRA seeks to support programs as they strategically pursue their missions, graduate leaders in public service, and achieve excellence in education.

Please note that the Commission will review each of your annual accreditation maintenance reports to determine ongoing conformity with NASPAA Standards, including progress in the areas noted above. Your annual reports and COPRA's actions in response to your reports will become a permanent part of the program's accreditation record to be used during your next accreditation review. COPRA's acceptance of the program's annual reports is contingent on receiving satisfactory responses on the issues noted. If the program does not submit the information requested regarding the monitored Standard(s) in annual reports, the Commission may require the program to re-enter the accreditation cycle with an updated Self-Study Report. Monitoring provisions remain in effect and must be addressed each year until the program is notified by COPRA that the monitoring has been removed.

The Commission also wishes to reemphasize its commitment to the transparency and accountability central to Standard 7.1 – Communications. Accredited programs are expected to consistently, accurately, and publicly provide their stakeholders with relevant information about the program and its student learning outcomes, to include graduation rates and employment placement. Programs found out of conformance at the annual report review each fall will be expected to resolve any nonconformities immediately upon notification, at the risk of COPRA alerting the university provost and pulling the program into an early reaccreditation review.

We look forward to receiving your annual accreditation maintenance report by **November 1, 2025**. Questions about this year's annual report should be directed to copra@naspaa.org.