

**American Library Association
Committee on Accreditation**

**Accreditation Decisions and Actions Taken
Midwinter Meeting 2019, Seattle**

Issued February 7, 2019

Members of the 2018-2019 ALA Committee on Accreditation: Loretta Parham (Chair), Eric Albright, Rachel Applegate, Theresa Byrd, Kathleen De Long, David Eichmann, Robert Holley, R.E. LeMon, Dale McNeill, Linda Smith, Karen Snow, and David Weigle.

At its Midwinter Meeting, held January 26-27, 2019, the ALA Committee on Accreditation (COA) took the following actions:

Accreditation Decisions

What follows reflects the April 2018 policy revision to [section I.15 \(Accreditation decisions\)](#) of [Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures \(AP3\)](#), implemented to enhance public disclosure, that went into effect for all programs beginning in May 2018. The policy states that “any [standard](#) on which a program has follow-up reporting (following a comprehensive review or interim reporting review) is made public by the Office for Accreditation in the [Directory of ALA-Accredited Programs](#) and as a part of the usual means (e.g., [press release](#), [Accreditation Decisions and Actions Taken reports](#), and [Prism](#)).”

Continued Accreditation status was granted to the following programs (listed in alphabetical order by institution), with the next comprehensive review visit scheduled to take place in fall 2025:

- Master of Library and Information Science at the University of California, Los Angeles. Standards cited for follow-up reporting: I.1 (program's mission and goals pursued through implementation of an ongoing, broad-based, systematic planning process), III.1 (faculty capable of accomplishing program objectives), V.1 (program is an integral yet distinctive academic unit within institution).
- Master of Science in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Standard cited for follow-up reporting: V.3 (authority and qualifications of administrative head of program).
- Master of Library and Information Science at Kent State University. Standard cited for follow-up reporting: IV.2 (program information available to students and general public).
- Master of Information at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Meets all standards. No follow-up reporting required.
- Master of Science in Library and Information Science at St. John’s University. Meets all standards. No follow-up reporting required.

External Review Panel Appointments

- Approved External Review Panels (ERP) for spring 2020 comprehensive review visits to University of Alberta, University of Maryland, University of North Texas, University of

Pittsburgh, and Southern Connecticut State University.

- Approved ERP chairs for fall 2020 comprehensive review visits to University of Ottawa, Valdosta State University, and University of Washington.

Reports from programs

- Reviewed and responded to one special report.

Committee Matters

- Met separately with two programs at the request of the programs.
- Reviewed and approved the following policy adjustment to *Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3)*, fourth edition:

Section I.18.1 Statistical reporting:

Changed the section name from “Statistical reports” to “Statistical reporting” and inserted the following after the first paragraph:

Also reviewed are statistics the program makes available publicly on: 1) Retention rate, 2) Average time to degree completion, and 3) Percentage of graduates holding positions relevant to the degree within 12 months of degree completion (which may include further graduate study). Those three statistics are to be positioned first among a listing of any other data the program would like to include. This data is to be accessible no more than one click off the program landing page. *Effective February 1, 2019, for full implementation by March 28, 2019.*

Rationale: To address Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) requirement that programs “provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement as determined by the institution or program.”

- Reviewed and approved the inclusion of “Meets all standards” to program entries in the Directory of ALA-accredited Programs when programs require no follow-up reporting.

Rationale: To address Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) requirement that policies and procedures are in place to “inform the public of the basis for final decisions to grant or reaffirm accreditation.”

- Discussed plans of the Standards Review Subcommittee.
- Discussed possible adjustments to the structure of COA meetings.
- Discussed COA Chair’s planned comments to Council concerning the proposed revision to ALA Standard V.3 that was presented to the ALA Council and approved at its January 28, 2019, meeting at the 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting.