External Academic Reviews

Arkansas State University is committed to academic program excellence. All academic programs undergo regular external review, either through specialized accreditation or by expert consultants, to ensure quality, relevance, and continuous improvement.

- Overview of External Academic Reviews
- Program Site Visit Schedule
- Communication Protocols for Accredited Programs
- Specialized Accreditations

Overview of External Academic Reviews

Arkansas State University conducts external academic reviews to ensure program quality, relevance, and alignment with institutional and state priorities. These reviews are required by **Arkansas Code §6-61-214** and administered by the **Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB)**.

> The full details of **Arkansas Code §6-61-214** are linked here:
>
> Academic Program Review Policy
>
> Academic Program Viability Policy

All certificate and degree programs must undergo review every **7 to 10 years**, either through specialized accreditation or by external consultants.

Types of Program Review

Specialized Accredited Programs

- Accredited, Licensed, or State-Certified Programs follow the review schedule and procedures established by their respective accrediting or approval bodies.
- Documentation must still be submitted to ADHE after each review.

➤ See: **Specialized Accredited Programs**

Non-Accredited Programs

- Programs that are not subject to specialized accreditation are reviewed by **external consultants** selected for their disciplinary expertise.
- These reviews provide valuable feedback and help ensure that A-State's academic offerings remain aligned with institutional goals, state expectations, and national standards.

➤ See: **Program Review and Reporting**

Planning and Communication

The Office of Accreditation and Assessment provides guidance and resources to support departments through the external review process.

➤ Communication Protocols for Accredited Programs

➤ Internal Planning Timeline

➤ Program Site Visit Schedule

Program Site Visit Schedule

All certificate and degree programs that are not program-specific, accredited/licensed/state-certified will be reviewed by external consultants every 7-10 years. The following information provides the academic year in which each non-program-specific accredited/licensed/state-certified program will have an expert consultant visit the A-State campus:

2022-2023

Award	Program Name
AS	Technology
BA	Chemistry
BA	Environmental Studies
BA	Economics
BS	Technology
BS	Biological Sciences (all emphases)
BS	Biotechnology
BS	Chemistry
BS	Environmental Science
BS	Physics
BS	Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation
BSA	Agricultural Studies
BSA	Agriculture Business; also at ASUB
BSA	Animal Science
BSA	Plant & Soil Science
MA	Biological Sciences
MS	Biology
MS	Chemistry
MSA	Agriculture
MSE	Biology
MSE	Chemistry
PSC	Biotechnology

2023-2024

Award	Program Name
BA	Criminology; also at ASUB, ASUMH, EACC, ANC, MSCC, ASUN
BA	English
BA	Philosophy
BA	Sociology; also at ANC
CP	Spanish for Professions
BA	World Languages & Cultures
BS	Health Studies
MA	Criminal Justice
MA	English
MA	Sociology
MSE	English

2024-2025

Award	Program Name
AAS	Paramedic
AGS	General Studies
AS	General Education
CP	Nonprofit Communication
CP	Neuropsychological Testing
BA	Communication Studies
BA	Computer Science
BAS	Organizational Supervision
BGS	General Studies
BS	Exercise Science
BS	Health Promotion
BS	Psychology
BS	Strategic Communications

BS	Computer Science
BS	Mathematics
BS	Interdisciplinary Studies
BSCE	Civil Engineering
BSEE	Electrical Engineering
BSME	Mechanical Engineering
CP	Social Media Management
CP	Professional Leadership
GC	Health Communication
GC	Cyber Security
GC	Data Science
GC	High Performance Computing
GC	Computer Science Education
MA	Communication Studies
MS	Strategic Communication
MS	Exercise Science
MS	Psychological Science
MS	Computer Science
MS	Mathematics
MSE	Mathematics
MSE	Computer Science Education
MSE	Physical Education

2025-2026

Award	**Program Name**
CP	Digital Humanities
BA	History
BA	Political Science
EdD	Educational Leadership
GC	History
MA	History

MA	Political Science
MS	College Student Personnel Services
MS	Early Childhood Services
MSE	Social Science

2026-2027

Award	Program Name
MCD	Communicative Disorders

2027-2028

Award	Program Name
BS	Digital Innovations
CP	Swift Coding

2028-2029

Award	Program Name
BA	Music
BM	Music
MM	Music - Performance
MME	Music Education

2029-2030

Award	Program Name
MA	Heritage Studies
PhD	Heritage Studies
MS	Environmental Sciences
MS	Molecular Biosciences
PhD	Environmental Sciences

PhD	Molecular Sciences

2030-2031

Award	Program Name
BS	Communication Sciences & Disorders
BS	Creative Multimedia Production
MS	Media Management
MSMC	Journalism
MSMC	Radio-Television

2031-2032

Award	Program Name
MSE	Early Childhood Education
MSE	Educational Theory & Practice, (National Board Certification Track, offered via distance); also at AL, KS, TN, TX
MEM	Engineering Management
MSE	Engineering

Communication Protocols for Accredited Programs

Guidance for Coordinating Programmatic Accreditation Reviews

The Office of Accreditation and Assessment provides guidance and resources to support departments through the external review process for accredited, licensed, or state-certified programs. The following process outlines communication process programs should have with the Provost office regarding programmatic accreditation. Each section is intended for each possible stage of programmatic accreditation. Programs are highly encouraged to use consultants to review the self-study report draft, prepare for the site visit, or provide general advice on the accreditation process.

Planning Timeline Worksheet

Programs are required to submit a timeline **360 days in advance of the self-study submission deadline** that outlines key milestones for document development, consultant coordination, and site visit preparation. This worksheet helps departments plan and track those steps in alignment with ADHE and institutional expectations.

Attached Document: Programmatic Accreditation Timeline Worksheet (DOCX)

Use this worksheet to:

- Identify your self-study and site visit dates
- Plan committee formation and document submission
- Schedule meetings with the Provost's Office
- Track rejoinders, final reports, and progress updates

Candidacy and Initial Accreditation

I. Curriculum Forms for new programs and reconfigured programs includes information regarding the timeline for candidacy and initial accreditation.
II. Programs will submit a timeline 360 days in advance of the self-study submission deadline that outlines the milestones for developing and submitting all documents and self-study reports to the accreditor, Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation (see **Planning Timeline Worksheet**).

III. The following applications, forms, and/or reports must be submitted to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation at least 30 days in advance of submission to programmatic accreditor:
   a. All candidacy and initial accreditation applications (after program/curriculum proposal forms are approved)
   b. Initial accreditation self-study or log-in to assurance argument system
   c. A two-page summary of the strengths and potential concerns of the program based on the self-study analysis and report
IV. Within 30 days of the site visit, the self-study director, program director, department chair, associate dean, and dean will meet with the Provost and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation to review the accreditation process. This meeting should include a short presentation with the following information: review of accreditation process, expectations for the site visit, self-study highlights, strengths and potential concerns, and anticipated questions during the visit.
V. Site visit agenda must be provided to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation at least 14 days prior to site team arrival and must include the following:
   a. At least one meeting, preferably the exit meeting, with the Provost and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation
   b. In the event the Provost or Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation cannot attend the meeting, the Sr. Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will attend
VI. Any rejoinder or confirmation of fact correspondence after the site visit must be submitted to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation within 14 days of the deadline set by the accreditor.
VII. All email correspondence between accreditor and program after the site visit and before the final accreditor decision regarding rejoinder and/or confirmation of fact must include the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation
VIII. Team report, team recommendations, and accreditation affirmation letters must be sent to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation within 14 days of receipt

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Reaffirmation of Accreditation

I. Programs will submit a timeline 360 days in advance of the self-study submission deadline that outlines the milestones for developing and submitting all documents and self-study reports to the accreditor, Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation (template will be provided).
II. The following must be submitted to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation at least 30 days in advance of submission to programmatic accreditor:
   a. Accreditation self-study or log-in to assurance argument system

b. A two-page summary of the strengths and potential concerns of the program based on the self-study analysis and report

III. Within 30 days of the site visit, the self-study director, program director, department chair, associate dean, and dean will meet with the Provost and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation to review the accreditation process. This meeting should include a short presentation with the following information: review of accreditation process, expectations for the site visit, self-study highlights, strengths and potential concerns, and anticipated questions during the visit.

IV. Site visit agenda must be provided to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation at least 14 days prior to site team arrival and must include the following:
   a. At least one meeting, preferably the exit meeting, with the Provost and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation
   b. In the event the Provost or ASSISSTANT VICE CHANCELLOR for Assessment and Accreditation cannot attend the meeting, the Sr. Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will attend

V. Any rejoinder or confirmation of fact correspondence after the site visit must be submitted to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation within two weeks of the deadline set by the accreditor.

VI. All email correspondence between accreditor and program after the site visit and before the final accreditor decision regarding rejoinder and/or confirmation of fact must include the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation

VII. Team report, team recommendations, and accreditation reaffirmation letters must be sent to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation within 14 days of receipt

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Post Hoc Process: Interim Monitoring[1]

I. In the event the programmatic accreditor requires interim monitoring of any type (report or focus visit), the following must be delivered to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation at least 30 days in advance of the programmatic accreditor's deadline:
   a. Interim report or log-in to assurance argument system
   b. A two-page summary of the strengths and potential concerns of the program based on the follow-up improvements required for the interim report

II. If there is a focus visit, the site visit agenda must be provided to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation at least 14 days prior to site team arrival and must include the following:
   a. At least one meeting, preferably the exit meeting, with the Provost and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation
   b. In the event the Provost or Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation cannot attend the meeting, the Sr. Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will attend

III. Interim report or site visit review letters must be sent to the Provost, Provost's Executive Assistant, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation within two weeks of receipt

> **1** Programmatic accreditation nomenclature varies from accreditor-to-accreditor. In some instances, particularly in health professions and public administration, the accreditor requires annual routine reports that are called "interim reports." These types of routine interim reports are not subject to AAR review as discussed here. Interim monitoring in this context is related to addressing deficiencies in meeting the accreditor's standards or criterion. Additionally, some accreditors require clinical site endorsements. This, too, is an exception to the formal communication process outlined in this document. The Provost and AAR are always willing to assist when needed with these types of reports and endorsements though. Please keep in close contact with the respective Dean and reach out to AAR for assistance when needed.

Post Hoc Process: Recommendations for Next Reaffirmation

I. In the event the programmatic accreditor makes recommendations for the next reaffirmation, programs are required to make a progress report to the Provost and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation one year from receipt of the team report and official accreditation letter.
   a. If curriculum is mentioned, the Sr. Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs should be contacted immediately to begin the curriculum revision process and necessary proposals
   b. If retention is mentioned, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Retention should be consulted
   c. If student-learning assessment is mentioned, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Accreditation should be consulted and assessment plans adapted to the accreditor's recommendations
   d. If hiring new faculty and/or staff is recommended, the Dean and Provost should begin making the necessary hiring arrangements
   e. All other possible recommendations should be discussed with the appropriate department (i.e. Facilities Management; internship sites; preceptors; etc.)

Notes

This communication process may be altered to fit the accreditor's processes when appropriate. However, the Provost Office must have clear communication and a reasonable amount of time to

review self-study reports, rejoinder or confirmation of fact correspondence, interim monitoring reports, and/or site visit meeting requests.

Specialized Accreditations

This page provides a comprehensive list of **academic accreditations and campus endorsements**. These specialized accreditations reflect Arkansas State University's commitment to academic excellence and compliance with professional standards across a wide range of disciplines.

Arkansas State University is accredited by the regional institutional accreditor, the **Higher Learning Commission**. Individual programs are then accredited by specialized accrediting agencies for the respective programs.

Specialized Accrediting Agencies

These accrediting organizations set the academic standards by which their member institutions must comply.

College of Business

Accreditor: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – International (AACSB)
Accredited Degrees:

- Accounting, BS, MAcc
- Business Administration, BS, MBA
- Economics, BA, BS
- Finance, BS
- Global Supply Chain Management, BS
- Information Systems and Business Analytics, BS
- International Business, BS
- Management, BS
- Marketing, BS

College of Education and Behavioral Science

Accreditor: Association for Play Therapy (APT)
Accredited Degrees:

- Play Therapy, GC

Accreditor: Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
Accredited Degrees:

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling, EdS

Accreditor: Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
Accredited Degrees:

- Agricultural Education, BSA
- Art and Design, BFA
- Business Technology, MAT
- Curriculum & Instruction, MSE
- Early Childhood Education, MSE
- Elementary Education, BSE
- Educational Leadership, MSE, EdS
- English Education, BSE
- Gifted, Talented & Creative Education, MSE
- Master of Art in Teaching, MAT
- Mathematics Education, BSE
- Mid-Level Education, BSE
- Music Education, BME
- Physical Education, BSE
- Reading, MSE, EdS
- School Counseling, MSE
- Social Science Education, BSE
- Special Education (K–12), BSE, MSE, MAT
- World Languages & Cultures, BSE

Accreditor: Commission on Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA)
Accredited Degrees:

- Sport Management, BS
- Sport Administration, MS

Accreditor: National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
Accredited Degrees:

- School Psychology, EdS

College of Engineering and Computer Science

Accreditor: ABET – Engineering Accreditation Commission
Accredited Degrees:

- Civil Engineering, BS
  - Under the commission's General Criteria and Program Criteria for Civil and similarly named engineering programs.
- Electrical Engineering, BS
  - Under the commission's General Criteria and Program Criteria for Electrical, Computer, Communications, Telecommunication(s) and similarly named engineering programs.
- Mechanical Engineering, BS
  - Under the commission's General Criteria and Program Criteria for Mechanical and similarly named engineering programs.

College of Liberal Arts & Communication

Accreditor: National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)
Accredited Degrees:

- Art, BA, BFA
- Art Education, BFA, MA
- Graphic Design, BFA

Accreditor: National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
Accredited Degrees:

- Composition, BM, MM
- Music, BM
  - **Concentrations:** Composition, Instrumental Performance, Keyboard Performance, Voice Performance
- Music, MM
  - **Concentrations**: Collaborative Piano, Composition, Conducting (Choral, Instrumental), Jazz Studies, Music Industry, Performance (Instrumental or Vocal), Piano Pedagogy
- Music Education, BME
  - **Concentrations**: Instrumental Music, Vocal Music
- Music Education, MME
  - **Concentrations**: Choral, Instrumental
- Music Performance, BM, MM

Accreditor: National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)
Accredited Degrees:

- Theatre, BA (General)

Application in Process:

- Theatre, BA (Acting, Design Technology, Musical Theatre)

Accreditor: Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC)
Accredited Degrees:

- Multimedia Journalism, BS

Accreditor: Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)
Accredited Degrees:

- Public Administration, MPA

College of Nursing & Health Professions

Accreditor: Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
Accredited Degrees:

- Nursing, AASN, BSN, MSN
- Nursing, DNP (Candidacy)

Accreditor: Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA)
Accredited Degrees:

- Nurse Anesthesia, MSN, DNP (Candidacy)

Accreditor: Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)
Accredited Degrees:

- Athletic Training, MAT

Accreditor: Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
Accredited Degrees:

- Physical Therapy, DPT
- Physical Therapist Assistant, AAS

Accreditor: Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)
Accredited Degrees:

- Occupational Therapy Assistant, AAS

- Occupational Therapy Doctorate, OTD

Accreditor: National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)
Accredited Degrees:

- Clinical Lab Scientist/Medical Technologist, BS
- Clinical Lab Technician/Medical Lab Tech, AAS

Accreditor: Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)
Accredited Degrees:

- Radiologic Sciences, emphasis in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, BSRS

Accreditor: Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)
Accredited Degrees:

- Radiologic Sciences, emphasis in Magnetic Resonance Imaging, BSRS
- Radiologic Sciences, emphasis in Radiation Therapy, BSRS
- Radiologic Sciences, emphasis in Radiography, BSRS

Accreditor: Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (ASHA/CAA)
Accredited Degrees:

- Communication Disorders, MCD

Accreditor: Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
Accredited Degrees:

- Social Work, BSW, MSW

Accreditor: Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)
Accredited Degrees:

- Coordinated Program in Dietetics, MS

Accreditor: Council for the Accreditation of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Education (CAEMHSE)
Accredited Degrees:

- Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, AAS, BS, MS

Accreditor: Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP)

Accredited Degrees:

Application in Process (Status: Letter of Review):

- Paramedic, AAS, TC

Accreditor: American Diabetes Association
Accredited Degrees:

- Diabetes Self-Management Program

Accreditor: Arkansas Department of Health Emergency Medical Services
Accredited Degrees:

- Emergency Medical Technician-Basic CP Program

College of Sciences & Mathematics

Accreditor: American Chemical Society (ACS)
Accredited Degrees:

- Chemistry, BS

University College

Accreditor: National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP)
Accredited Program:

- Concurrent Enrollment

ASU Museum

Accreditor: American Association of Museums (AAM)

International Center for English

Accreditor: Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA)
Accredited Program:

- English Learning Academy

Facilities Management

Accreditor: **APPA (Association of Physical Plant Administrators) - *Leadership in Educational Facilities***
Recognition:

- APPA Award for Excellence, Facilities Management Evaluation Program (FMEP)

University Police Department

Accreditor: **Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)**