

## Which Excellence Program is Right for My Organization?

<i>As of 9/2016</i>	Pledge of Excellence	StEPs	Museum Assessment Program (MAP)	Collections Assessment for Preservation Program (CAP)	Core Documents Verification	Small Museums Accreditation Academy	Accreditation
<b>Program Purpose</b>	Show your commitment to ethics, national standards and best practices.	Starting point for small- and mid-sized history organizations that are not ready for other programs. Self-paced, self-study.	Consultative program helps museums to assess their strengths and weaknesses, meet museum standards, and build capacity by planning for the future.	Provides report from a conservator and building consultant that serves as a tool for long-range planning and fund-raising for conservation.	Receive recognition validating your museum's mission and core policies meet national standards for professional museums.	Accreditation readiness program for museums with five or fewer staff.	Provides recognition for meeting national museum standards and ethics, and commitment to continued institutional improvement.
<b>How do I participate?</b>	Send an email to <a href="mailto:pledge@aam-us.org">pledge@aam-us.org</a> or log in to the AAM website and check a box.	Sign up anytime.	Submit Dec. 1 or July 1 application or pay fee to participate anytime.	See <a href="http://www.conservation-us.org/CAP">http://www.conservation-us.org/CAP</a> for deadlines.	Apply anytime.	Apply annually (application period ~ late summer)	Submit application anytime; reviewed Feb., June, Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> .
<b>How does this program relate to the others?</b>	Pledge to follow National Standards & Best Practices for Museums that are used in all the excellence programs.	Uses the same standards (National Standards & Best Practices for Museums). A good precursor to, or in conjunction with MAP/CAP.	Uses the same standards (National Standards & Best Practices for Museums). A good tool to prepare for re/accreditation.	Uses the same standards (National Standards & Best Practices for Museums). Museums can use CAP to prepare for re/accreditation.	A required step before Accreditation. An opportunity to receive recognition for the plans you've created in StEPs, MAP or CAP.	Curriculum prepares museums for Accreditation and Core Documents Verification.	Uses the same standards (National Standards & Best Practices for Museums)
<b>What does this program cost?</b>	It's free.	\$175 one-time payment + non-members purchase an institutional membership. Must maintain institutional membership to receive certificates.	Free for organizations with operating expenses of \$125,000 or less; \$350-\$750 for others. Over \$4000 worth of services provided.	Participants should budget \$400 - \$1,500 to cover potential additional costs. A budget-based allocation averaging \$7,400 is provided.	Between \$150-\$500 depending on AAM membership status. (Membership not required)	Between \$400- \$750 depending on membership level with the American Alliance of Museums. (Membership not required)	Review Fee due when Self-Study is submitted: \$2500-\$6000 (based member status) + Site Visit costs (est'd ~ \$2000). (Membership not required)
<b>How much time does it take?</b>	A few minutes.	Self-paced so time varies.	Completed within one year.	Completed within one year.	A few months.	One year.	12-18 months. Must undergo reaccreditation every 10 years.
<b>How is this program structured?</b>	Discuss the pledge with staff and board and then take it.	Six separate sections can be undertaken in any order.	Four possible assessments offer a comprehensive self-study, peer site visit, report & implementation.	Two-day site visit followed by assessor's report.	A review of the required elements in the five core documents.	A guided online experience that combines live sessions, mentoring and collaborative activities for board and staff.	One comprehensive study of the entire institution via a Self-Study, a site visit, and review by the Accreditation Commission.
<b>Why should my institution use this program?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's an easy step to commit to museum standards.</li> <li>A precursor for participating in other standards assessment and recognition programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and awareness of standards for paid and unpaid staff, governing authority and community</li> <li>Understand strengths and weaknesses</li> <li>Use as a tool for daily management and planning</li> <li>Build credibility and support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand strengths and weaknesses</li> <li>Get recommendations for improvement</li> <li>Learn about standards and best practices</li> <li>Use report as a tool to guide strategic planning and fundraising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand conservation strengths and weaknesses</li> <li>Get recommendations for improvement</li> <li>Learn about conservation standards and best practices</li> <li>Use report to guide conservation planning and fundraising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguishes the museum as a professional member of the field and an educational entity</li> <li>Acts as an accountability tool for keeping policies up to date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive and structured approach to completing your Core Documents</li> <li>Build a stronger culture of excellence</li> <li>Be well prepared to apply for Accreditation</li> </ul>	Results in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability and a Stronger Institution</li> <li>Credibility and Accountability</li> <li>A Clearer Sense of Mission</li> <li>National Recognition</li> </ul>
<b>What is the program outcome?</b>	A public commitment to standards and best practices.	Self-completed workbook helps with planning; certificates for meeting performance indicators.	Self-completed workbook and report from surveyor that helps museums prioritize need and improve operations.	Report from assessors that helps museums prioritize conservation needs.	National recognition.	Museums will: have their core documents poised to be verified; strengthen their institutional culture of excellence; feel ready to apply for accreditation.	Award or denial of Accredited Museum status.
<b>Where can I obtain more information?</b>	American Alliance of Museums <a href="http://www.aam-us.org">www.aam-us.org</a>	American Association for State and Local History <a href="http://www.aaslh.org">www.aaslh.org</a>	American Alliance of Museums <a href="http://www.aam-us.org">www.aam-us.org</a>	Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works: <a href="http://www.conservation-us.org/">http://www.conservation-us.org/</a>	American Alliance of Museums <a href="http://www.aam-us.org">www.aam-us.org</a>	American Alliance of Museums <a href="http://www.aam-us.org">www.aam-us.org</a>	American Alliance of Museums <a href="http://www.aam-us.org">www.aam-us.org</a>

# The Continuum of Excellence

Supporting and celebrating your museum's commitment to standards

