

Eligibility Criteria for Participating in the Accreditation Process

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To participate in the AAM Accreditation Program, a museum must:

- Be a legally organized nonprofit institution or part of a nonprofit organization or government entity
- Be essentially educational in nature
- Have a formally stated and approved mission
- Use and interpret objects and/or a site for the public presentation of regularly scheduled programs and exhibits
- Have a formal and appropriate program of documentation, care, and use of collections and/or objects
- Carry out the above functions primarily at a physical facility/site
- Have been open to the public for at least two years
- Be open to the public at least 1,000 hours a year
- Have accessioned 80 percent of its permanent collection
- Have at least one paid professional staff person with museum knowledge and experience
- Have a full-time director to whom authority is delegated for day-to-day operations
- Have the financial resources sufficient to operate effectively
- Demonstrate it meets the Characteristics of an Accreditable Museum