



**Standards and Guidelines  
for  
Liberal Arts Affiliation**

**The American Academy for Liberal Education**

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE), an American accreditor of liberal arts colleges and universities approved by the U.S. Department of Education, is now broadening its horizons by offering a new category of association called Affiliation, designed specifically to cater to the needs of colleges and universities outside the United States that are dedicated to cultivating their own strong liberal arts programs.

Liberal learning - broad learning about the universe and nature, and about humanity and human achievements - is needed now more than ever. While it is undoubtedly true that specialized knowledge and training will increase in importance as we move into the twenty-first century, highly specialized knowledge or technical expertise alone cannot provide an understanding of human powers, abilities, or aims, nor can it provide us with sound advice about the uses to which such specialized knowledge and technical expertise should be put. This is why reflective education about what is permanent and common to all, combined with rigorous preparation in the habits of learning, in the deepening of understanding, and in the skills of articulate expression, remains the central purpose of undergraduate education. We have hopes that, through Affiliation, we might be able to encourage the proliferation of liberal education and its benefits throughout the world, for the betterment of all.

The American Academy welcomes inquiries from institutions and programs around the world that share its dedication to high standards of undergraduate teaching and learning.

Jeffrey D. Wallin  
President

# **PROCEDURES**

## **FOR GAINING AFFILIATION**

Affiliation with the American Academy for Liberal Education is intended to bring AALE together with the many colleges and universities around the world that have been or intend to increase their liberal arts offerings. Other forms of association include Certification and Accreditation (see info. on this). Affiliation signifies a common understanding that the knowledge and skills of the liberal arts are not only worthwhile in themselves, but that they are also useful additions to essentially technical programs.

Affiliation may be initiated by signing a document agreeing to this common understanding, accompanied by a fee, as indicated in the application form. The granting of Affiliate status is dependent upon a review of the program or institution's mission statement, and other documents that may be requested by AALE staff. This status may be withdrawn if the circumstances upon which it was awarded change in ways judged to be inconsistent with the purposes of liberal education.

If not provided at the time an institution indicates a desire for Affiliate status, a mission statement or formal letter from a chief administrator of the school must be submitted within four months. This should express a strong commitment to improving undergraduate education in the liberal arts, and be accompanied by a copy of the institution or program's mission statement or equivalent, and two copies of the course curriculum. When possible, these should be accompanied by English translations. The Academy also welcomes further information about the program or institution.

Please note that, should AALE find the program to be other than as described in materials sent by the school, or find that the liberal arts are being neglected to the extent that it they are unlikely to flourish, they may recommend to the president of the AALE that Affiliation with the program in question be ceased. The president, upon consultation with the site visitors, will determine whether or not Affiliation will be formally continued in light of site visit findings. If this occurs, no fees associated with application, dues, or the site visit may be refunded to the program. The Academy is dedicated to using Affiliation to help programs serious about improving their liberal education programs, and reserves the right to discontinue affiliation when evidence indicates that any Affiliate lacks this seriousness so that all those who are formally Affiliated will reflect well on each other and the Academy. Should an adverse decision occur, the program will be informed in writing of the reason for this decision. AALE Staff are the sole arbiter of Affiliation decisions.

## **BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION**

*Affiliates are automatically entitled to the following Benefits:*

- Receive a site visit from one or two AALE representatives
- Be eligible to attend the Academy's National meetings, where your school's representatives can meet officials from prestigious American Liberal Arts Colleges while discussing and learning about liberal arts education today
- Receive a Certificate noting your affiliation with an organization officially recognized by the U.S. Department of Education
- Have your program mentioned on the AALE website and in our Newsletter.
- Gain access to a variety of other more involved services from the Academy, available at an additional fee.

*Affiliates may access the following Benefits at an additional fee<sup>1</sup>:*

- Have American Higher Education experts advise you in creating a liberal arts program, rigorous by American standards.
- Become connected with American Liberal Arts Programs interested in creating faculty and student exchange programs with your institution.
- Receive advice on your English translations of web sites and brochures, to optimize your ability to present yourself well to the American public
- Eventually make your Liberal Arts program eligible to apply for Certification or even Program Accreditation and be recognized for upholding standards comparable to those held by our Certified and Accredited programs in America.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the separate list of Affiliation fees and dues.