

AUPHA, its Board of Directors, and the Undergraduate Program Committee routinely evaluate undergraduate certification to identify ways to add value while reducing burden on programs and volunteer reviewers. The changes described below were approved by the Board in March 2024 and were recommended in response to member feedback and questions. We hope you will join us in celebrating this step towards improving this rigorous, important, and valuable peer review process.

The changes are organized by the cycle in which they will first be implemented.

2024-2025 Certification Cycle Changes

- *Criteria-Related Changes:* Three additional changes to the undergraduate certification criteria were approved at the March 2024 board meeting. These changes focus mainly on language/terminology. These changes are briefly described below. For further details on these changes, please consult the document [Overview of Additional Approved Criteria Changes – March 2024](#). For the complete set of criteria, including all revisions from 2023 and 2024, please consult [Undergraduate Certification Criteria \(Revised 2024\)](#). All of these documents (and more) are also available on the [certification documents page](#) of AUPHA's website.
 - Eligibility Criteria D and E: Addition of explanation of how programs can petition UPC for eligibility even if they do not meet these criteria to the letter.
 - Self-Study Criteria #11 and #12: Combine into a single criterion.
 - Self-Study Criterion #22: Language changes for clarification and compliance.
- *Cycle Timeline Changes:* There have been no changes to program deadlines for submitting eligibility materials or the self-study. However, the timeline for the review itself has been adjusted to fit within the spring 2025 semester, with board decisions on review team recommendations for certification taking place at the June meeting. Virtual review panels will be held in late February/early March 2025. Please see the timeline, [Revised Undergraduate Certification Timeline 2024-2025](#) for further details.

2025-2026 Certification Cycle Changes

- *Cycle Timeline Changes:* AUPHA will introduce an optional fall cycle for programs slated for this cycle. All programs will declare their intent to stand for certification in January 2025 using AY 24-25 as their self-study year. Programs that opt into the fall cycle will complete their self-study between March and September 2025, with their review taking place during the fall semester. Board decisions on fall cycle programs will be made at the March 2026 meeting. Please see the timeline, [Undergraduate Certification Timeline 2025-2026](#) for further details.

2026-2027 Certification Cycle Changes

- *Candidacy Status:* Starting in 2026-2027, all programs interested in undergoing an initial review will first need to enter candidacy status. Candidacy status allows AUPHA to accurately schedule initial reviews while also providing support to these programs in preparation for their self-study. Programs will first declare their intent to stand and then submit candidacy materials; any program that submits all candidacy materials by the deadline will automatically enter this status and be assigned a peer



mentor. Peer mentors provide qualitative feedback to programs to help them understand the requirements of the undergraduate certification criteria. Programs that become candidates in 2026 will be eligible to go through the certification process as early as the 2027-2028 cycle. For more details on candidacy status and candidacy timelines, please review [Undergraduate Certification Timeline – Candidacy 2026](#) and the document [Overview of Candidacy Status](#). Additional details on candidacy status can be found on the [Candidacy Status](#) page of AUPHA’s website.

Sample copies of the updated [eligibility report](#) and [self-study survey](#) can be found on the [certification documents](#) page of AUPHA’s website.