



Early Childhood Higher Education Programs

Timeline for Transitioning to the 2021 NAEYC Higher Education Accreditation Standards

Programs submitting first-time or renewal Self-Study Reports as part of the March 2023 submission cycle and beyond must use the new higher education accreditation standards (including programs who choose to submit their reports early prior to the March 2023 deadline but after the September 2022 cycle’s two-week grace period). Please see the chart below that outlines expectations for programs with regard to the new accreditation standards.

Program Status	Expectations for Implementing the New Standards	Report Template (templates available in online resource library)
<p>Programs submitting first-time and renewal Self-Study Reports in March and September 2022 submission cycles</p> <p><i>Programs granted eligibility in 2017 or prior, please see reminder below chart*</i></p>	<p>Option to use the 2010 accreditation standards or the new accreditation standards</p>	<p>Program choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Self-Study Report Template addressing 2010 Professional Preparation Standards • 2021 Self-Study Report Template addressing 2020 Professional Standards and Competencies • 2021 Self-Study Report Template addressing new 2021 Higher Education Accreditation Standards to be released later in 2021
<p>Programs submitting first-time and renewal Self-Study Reports in 2023 submission cycles and beyond</p>	<p>Must use the new accreditation standards.</p>	<p>2021 Self-Study Report Template addressing new 2021 Higher Education Accreditation Standards to be released later in 2021, or future iterations of template as it’s revised in upcoming years (see page 20 of the accreditation handbook for policy on which template to use).</p>

<p>Programs submitting Annual Reports with conditions</p>	<p>Must respond to conditions based on the accreditation system standards under which the program was accredited with conditions (but may opt to align assessments to the <i>2020 Professional Standards and Competencies</i> if conditions relate to alignment).</p>	<p>Annual Report Template 2021 - <i>2010 Professional Preparation Standards</i></p> <p>or</p> <p>Annual Report Template 2021 - <i>2020 Professional Standards and Competencies</i></p>
<p>Programs submitting Annual Reports without conditions in 2022 and beyond</p>	<p>Encouraged to begin aligning curricula to the <i>Professional Standards and Competencies</i> as soon as possible. The Annual Report Template will be updated in the coming year to help programs transition to the new accreditation standards.</p>	<p>Templates will continue to evolve through the transition period. Please see the Accreditation Resource Library prior to your submission date for the most recent template(s), and see page 20 of the accreditation handbook for policy on which template to use.</p>

***Reminder:** Per accreditation policy, programs may remain in self-study for a period of up to five years before eligibility expires and programs must resubmit a new application and eligibility review fee. If your program was granted eligibility during or prior to March 2017, your Self-Study Report is due by March 31, 2022; if your program was granted eligibility between April and September of 2017, your report is due by September 30, 2022. However, in light of the timing of the new standards release, programs in these two cohorts may choose one of the following options to avoid eligibility expiration: 1) submit the Self-Study Report by the applicable 2022 deadline using either the 2010 standards or the new standards, or 2) request a one-year extension on Self-Study expiration if the additional time would support the program’s intent to submit during the March or September 2023 cycle using the new standards. If your program is part of these cohorts and wishes to request an eligibility extension, please email us at highered@naeyc.org so we can provide you with the appropriate request form.