

# Online resources for Biennial Meeting and redevelopment of *Standards* now available

BY DEBBIE CREAMER

*As the 2020 ATS/COA Biennial Meeting approaches—including the once-in-a-generation vote on new Standards and Policies—the Association has launched a new online site to help prepare members for the meeting, explore the proposed Standards and Policies, learn about ATS programs and services, and access new and timely educational resources. The site is open to anyone, with no registration necessary.*

Visitors to the site will find all materials related to the online Biennial Meeting, including the agenda, program book, and resources for the June 24–25 plenary sessions and business meetings. In the coming weeks, information will be added regarding how to view the livestream of the meeting; any additional resources or changes to the agenda will be posted here as well.

The site also includes three small learning modules that will run the week prior to the synchronous Biennial Meeting, beginning June 12 and ending June 19. These mini-courses will allow participants to explore timely topics—*Mission and Money in These Unique Times*, *Evaluation of Student Learning in the Midst of Disruption*, and *Pivoting to Online/Hybrid Education*—and will invite both self-reflection and peer conversation. Further description of these mini-courses is available on the site; there is no charge but preregistration is required for these mini-courses (see the site for details).

The most significant feature of the site is an in-depth exploration of the proposed new *Standards and Policies*. Those who are new to the redevelopment process or



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who enjoy looking back at where we've been may appreciate the section on the background of the redevelopment process. Another section focuses on what is "new" in the new *Standards and Policies*, which should serve to help members easily see the key changes between the current/old *Standards and Policies* and the proposed/new ones. A third section shares the voting drafts and Biennial Meeting information, and a fourth provides important information about proposed implementation of the new *Standards and Policies*, including grandfathering procedures. The site also includes answers to frequently asked questions and opportunities to provide feedback—culminating, as always, with the invitation to contact Commission staff with any questions. Should the vote on the new *Standards and Policies* be affirmative, all these resources would also become part of our training and support of accreditation visitors and other stakeholders, as described in an earlier *Colloquy Online* [article](#).

A virtual ATS member resource table—divided into sections that focus on engaging one another, equipping

leaders, exploring critical issues, and informing decision making—is also accessible on the site. It allows you to discover ATS programs, services, research, and peer engagement opportunities that are available to you as ATS members. A curated list of ATS/COA resources related to COVID-19 (including guidance from the Board of Commissioners and links to recent webinars) is also included on the site.

While we will miss being together in Vancouver, we hope this online site will help school representatives

feel ready to vote and will serve as a helpful “one-stop-shop” for anyone involved in the online Biennial Meeting. More than that, though, we also hope it will be useful to anyone interested in or impacted by the proposed new *Standards* and *Policies* as well as to anyone curious about ATS programs and services more broadly, and as an initial experiment that we can build on for education and engagement in the future. Please explore!



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