

National Association of Schools of Music

- Founded in 1924 to accredit higher education in music
- Leaders from six music schools met in June 1924 and formed the “National Association of Schools of Music and Allied Arts”; accreditations started in 1929
- NASM has accredited approximately 650 institutional members
- Purpose is to secure a better understanding among institutions of higher education engaged in work in music, establish a more uniform method of granting credit, and develop and maintain basic, threshold standards for the granting of degrees and other credentials
- Membership can either be individual or accredited institutional:
 - **Individual membership** is designed mainly for music executives and faculty members of institutions preparing for accredited institutional membership
 - **Accredited institutional membership** signifies accreditation for the institution
- The accreditation process consists of multiple parts:
 - **Standards-** Established by representatives of institutional members that ensure consistent reviews
 - **Self-Study-** Involves faculty, administration, and students in comparing institutional practices to NASM standards
 - **On-Site Review-** NASM evaluators review the self-study and then report their findings from a visit regarding consistency with standards, improvement areas, and future issues
 - **Commission Action-** NASM commission reviews the self-study, visit findings, and any optional responses the institution made following the visit, and vote on accreditation
- Once an institution passes accreditation, membership is granted for five-years as an associate membership
- After five years, institutions are reviewed for a continuing ten-year cycle where they become designated members