

## Which Assessment Program is Right for our Organization?

	<b>AASLH StEPs</b>	<b>AAM MAP</b>	<b>AAM Accreditation</b>
<i>Program Purpose</i>	Starting point for small- and mid-sized history organizations that are not ready for other programs. Self-paced, self-study.	Provides consultative feedback that museums can use to maintain and improve operations and understand how they compare to standards and best practices.	Provides recognition for meeting national museum standards and ethics, and commitment to continued institutional improvement.
<i>How do we participate?</i>	Sign up anytime.	Submit annual application or pay fee to participate anytime.	Submit application anytime; will be reviewed for acceptance at designated times of the year.
<i>Must program be done in sequence with the other two?</i>	No	No	No
<i>How does this program relate to the other two?</i>	Uses the same standards (National Standards for U.S. Museums) for the benefit of institutions that decide to advance to MAP or Accreditation. A good precursor to MAP	Uses the same standards (National Standards for U.S. Museums). Museums can use MAP to prepare for Accreditation.	Uses the same standards (National Standards for U.S. Museums)
<i>Show me the money. What does this program cost?</i>	\$150 one-time payment no matter how long it takes to complete the program. Must remain active institutional member to receive certificates.	Free for organizations with operating expenses of \$125,000 or less; prorated for other institutions.	\$400 one-time application fee if application is accepted, plus annual fees of \$250 for AAM members and \$575 for nonmembers.
<i>How much time is needed to complete it?</i>	Self-paced so time varies.	Completed within one year.	Average of 3 years. Must undergo reaccreditation every 10 years.
<i>How is this program structured?</i>	Six separate sections can be undertaken in any order.	Each of the four assessments offers a comprehensive study of that topic;	One comprehensive study of the entire institution.
<i>Why should my institution use this program?</i>	Good starting point for smaller organizations. Offers education and awareness of standards for paid and unpaid staff, board and governing authority members, and the community.	To understand strengths and weaknesses, get recommendations for improvement, and learn about standards and best practices.	Results in: Sustainability and a Stronger Institution Credibility and Accountability A Clearer Sense of Mission National Recognition
<i>What is the program outcome?</i>	Self-completed workbook that helps with long-term planning and 18 possible certificates for meeting performance indicators in six sections.	Self-completed workbook and report from surveyor that helps museums prioritize need and improve operations.	Award or denial of AAM Accredited Museum status
<i>How is completion of the program assessed?</i>	Self-assessment and self-reporting.	Self-assessment and consultative peer review through onsite visit and report.	Self-assessment and peer review through onsite visit and report then review by the Accreditation Commission.
<i>Where can we obtain more information?</i>	<a href="http://www.aaslh.org">www.aaslh.org</a>	<a href="http://www.aam-us.org">www.aam-us.org</a>	<a href="http://www.aam-us.org">www.aam-us.org</a>