

In March 2020, the Board of Directors charged the Admission Practices Committee to:

“...immediately begin drafting a “best practices” version of NACAC’s current Code of Ethics and Professional Practices, one that would articulate the organization’s values and ethical priorities in a way that safeguards its long-term ability to act in the best interest of students. This document should be delivered to the Board prior to the June board meeting.”



How did we get here?

Timeline

- **November 2017** - DOJ contacts NACAC about alleged antitrust violations in *Code of Ethics and Professional Practices*
- **October 2019** - Board approves terms of the Consent Decree
- **Late 2019 through Early 2020** - The national AP considered the membership pulse through the influence of the Ad Hoc Committee on Leadership in College Admission as well as the 2019 delegate exercise led in caucuses. A survey was created and sent to members on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Leadership in College Admission. Several “big issues” evolved around whether the association would maintain mandatory statements and how such might impact the membership and their admission practices. Preliminary results were shared with the AP Committee prior to their January meeting.

Timeline

- **January 2020** - The national AP committee met and engaged the initial charge of the Board to reflect on a document that would remain an admixture of best and mandatory practices, particularly examining those core components we thought should possibly remain mandatory in what would largely be a best practices document. Like-organizations' codes of ethics were analyzed. Legal opinions were solicited multiple times, and numerous legal documents were reviewed and considered throughout the process.
- **February 2020** - The Board discussed the findings of the AP committee from their January meeting
- **April 2020** - Final Judgement is entered. NACAC must comply with the Consent Decree and will be monitored for 5-7 years

Process

- **April 2020** – The NACAC Admission Practices Committee began drafting a “best practices” document
- **May 2020**- Affiliate AP chairs provided feedback on the proposed “best practices” document
- **June 2020**- NACAC Board of Directors approved draft of the proposed *Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission*
- **July 2020**- Members provided feedback on proposed *Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission*

Process cont.

- **Early August 2020-** AP Committee made final revisions
- **Mid-August 2020-** Proposed *Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission* was released
- **September 2020-** Assembly delegates voted to approve the replacement of the *Code of Ethics and Professional Practices* (CEPP) with the best practices document, [*Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission*](#). This change went into effect immediately.

Synopsis of the Work of the AP Committee

In 2020 alone, the national AP committee held eight committee meetings and six affiliate calls to discuss form, format, function, and values of the new document.

What is the same?

- Maintains the priority of serving the best interests of the student.
- Maintains recommended earliest deadlines of May 1 and October 15.
- Maintains most of the formerly mandatory practices as recommended practices.

What is different?

- All provisions are “best practices.”
- NACAC and affiliate AP committees will not enforce compliance.
- Recommended practices are less specific than the mandatory practices.
- Updates to Core Values.
- Embedded links to resources supporting recommended practice.
- There are no sanctions for non-compliance.