



**TAPAC**  
Textile and Apparel Programs Accreditation Commission

**Textiles and Apparel Programs Accreditation Commission  
(TAPAC)**

**Strategic Plan**

**MISSION**

To provide quality assessment and quality enhancement of collegiate programs in textiles and apparel and related areas.

**VISION**

To ensure outstanding college education that advances excellence in the textile and apparel profession.

**PURPOSE**

To serve as the accrediting body for collegiate programs in textiles and apparel and related areas. The Commission establishes standards for the recognition of programs. It reviews program characteristics and performance against these established standards.

**PREAMBLE**

The Textile and Apparel Program Accreditation Commission (TAPAC) was formed as a non-profit organization in 2017 following five years of work and recommendation from the International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA) Accreditation Committee to launch an accrediting body for the textile and apparel discipline. Since 2017, TAPAC has built upon the initial work of the committee to develop and implement bylaws, accreditation standards, policies and procedures, a fee structure, a self-study guide, a reviewers' handbook and an operating manual. Programs with interest in the work of TAPAC began joining as affiliate members of the Assembly of Delegates in 2018. After three and a half years of activity related to accreditation reviews, site visits, and accreditation decisions, TAPAC is now poised to move into the next phase of the

organization. To achieve its vision and mission, the TAPAC Board of Commissioners has developed the following five-year strategic plan.

## **GOAL ONE: STRATEGIC EXPANSION OF ACCREDITATION**

- Objective: Extend accreditation/endorsement to international baccalaureate degree programs
  - Actions:
    - 2021: Promote membership and establish taskforce to explore and gather information to determine feasibility of international accreditation
    - 2022: Review current standards and propose new ones as appropriate
    - 2023: Launch pilot program reviews
    - 2024: Accept application(s) and schedule site visit(s)
    - 2025: Complete first review(s)
  
- Objective: Extend accreditation/endorsement to domestic associate degree programs
  - Actions:
    - 2022: Promote membership and establish taskforce to explore and gather information to determine feasibility of associate degree program accreditation/endorsement
    - 2023: Review current standards and propose new ones as appropriate
    - 2024: Launch pilot program reviews
    - 2025: Accept application(s) and schedule site visit(s)
  - Note: Explore graduate programs in next strategic plan

## **GOAL TWO: FINANCIAL GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- Objective: Establish and describe the responsibilities of a standing finance committee
  - Actions:
    - 2021: Determine membership on the committee
    - 2021: Write the charge which may include:
      - How to operate to provide advice and guidance on financial activities
      - Methods for tracking and reporting income and expenses
      - Development of financial goals, plans, and projections
      - Development or modification of financial policies and procedures
      - Assessment of financial structure and activities
  
- Objective: Increase revenue
  - Actions:
    - 2021-2025: Review and evaluate fee and payment structure annually and adjust as necessary

- 2021-2025: Identify and establish alternative revenue sources including industry support
- 2021-2025: Identify and implement additional sources of funding such as:
  - Fee-based webinars
  - Fee-based consulting
  - Professional certification/endorsement
  - Survey data reports

### **GOAL THREE: ROBUST COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

- Objective: Improve the website
  - Actions:
    - 2021: Determine the optimal system to design and host an informative website for the TAPAC organization
    - 2021: Create a taskforce to evaluate website design and content and propose changes
    - 2022: Implement approved changes
- Objective: Increase communication with relevant academic and industry sectors
  - Actions:
    - Develop a broad communication plan, including:
      - 2021-2025: Submit regular reports for ITAA, industry, and other relevant publications
      - 2022: Create a TAPAC newsletter for dissemination to members and other relevant parties
      - 2022: Establish social media presence (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
  - Note: Involve our Industry/Professional/public members to create messages regarding value of accreditation to share with interested parties
- Objective: Increase visibility to relevant academic and industry sectors
  - Actions:
    - 2021-2025: Promote TAPAC accreditation through other organizations (e.g., Costume Society of America, Textile Society of America, Pop Culture Associations, American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, American Collegiate Retail Association)
    - 2021-2022: Develop and implement expectations for accredited programs regarding accredited programs' websites (link, logo, statement, e-signature icon)—include in operating procedures; should be consistent among all programs
    - 2021: Develop statements from accredited programs for website and social media

## **GOAL FOUR: OPTIMAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

- Objective: Build a strong operational structure to conduct the business of the organization
  - Actions:
    - 2021: Evaluate alternative storage systems for long term data access (Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.) and implement change if recommended
    - 2021: Develop naming conventions for folders and files
    - 2021: Identify and acquire an e-mail system with ease of use, privacy, and security

## **GOAL FIVE: RECOGNITION BY COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION (CHEA)**

- Objective: Apply for CHEA recognition
  - Actions:
    - 2021-2022: Align TAPAC policies, procedures, by-laws, and standards to meet the requirements of CHEA recognition
      - Add public member with voting rights to the BOC
      - Adjust description of BOC industry liaison to professional member with voting rights
      - Define public and professional member qualifications
      - Define the role of ITAA-TAPAC Liaison per CHEA requirements
      - Add international baccalaureate degree program and domestic associate degree program members on the BOC as appropriate
      - Develop statement prohibiting simultaneous service on TAPAC BOC and ITAA Council
      - Define and include professional and public involvement in site-visits and review decisions
    - 2021-2023: Prepare CHEA application documents
    - 2022-2024: Develop funding strategies to support requisite CHEA fees and expenses
    - 2024-2025: Submit CHEA application documents and fees