



# THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHOTOGRAPHERS

## *The Educational Associate Degree*

Revised: February 2021

The ASP Educational Associate Degree (EA-ASP) is an advanced degree designed for those individuals who dedicate themselves to teaching and sharing their skills with others. Applicants must hold the PPA Craftsman degree and have acquired 30 additional PPA speaking merits beyond their craftsman degree in order to apply. This degree may be earned by ASP members who actively participate and promote the ideals and philosophies of the organization beyond the initial recognition given with their acceptance into the Society.

### I. Eligibility Requirements

ASP Professional Active, Life, and Honorary Life members are eligible to apply for the Educational Associate.

1. In addition, eligibility to apply for the ASP Educational Associate requires that an individual:
  - a) hold Professional Photographers of America (PPA) Craftsman degree
  - b) is a member in good standing of ASP and PPA
  - c) has acquired thirty (30) additional PPA speaking, teaching, or writing merits beyond their craftsman degree and earned while maintaining their membership in ASP.
  - d) And the applicant must have completed a minimum of three (3) years of consecutive membership in ASP and PPA prior to applying for the Educational Associate.

### II. Submission Requirements

- a) The applicant must write a thesis. The thesis must be a product of individual research and thought, and demonstrate the applicant's mastery of the field while supporting a position for a new idea, development or trend.
  - (1) The thesis must be between 3,500 to 7,000 words (approximately 8 to 20 pages) in length, exclusive of the bibliography and any illustrations. The thesis is to be submitted in electronic PDF form.

- (2) The concepts presented in the thesis must be corroborated by outside research.
- (3) The range of topics is virtually unlimited, but should relate, in some manner, to the field of photography
- b) The applicant must submit the completed application.
- c) The applicant must submit the application fee of \$125.00
- d) With the application, the applicant should also submit a headshot (a digital file sized to 5X7 inches at 300 PPI) and biography (one page or less).
- e) In addition, the applicant must provide a PPA merit report in PDF form. (Download a current merit report from the MY PPA on the PPA website.)
- f) All of the required application components must be submitted to the Educational Associate Degree Chair on or before the submission deadlines.
- g) The submission deadline for the application, merit report, and application fee is July 1st of each calendar year.
- h) The submission deadline for the thesis, biography, and headshot is August 1st of each calendar year.

### III. The Judging Process

- a) All materials must be submitted to the Educational Associate Degree Chair prior to the submission deadlines in order to be considered for that year's judging.
- b) The Educational Associate Chair will select a panel of five (5) judges. The judges must be approved by the ASP President prior to the jurying process.
- c) The panel will be composed of four (4) ASP Educational Associate Degree holders and one (1) high school or college English instructor or person qualified with writing skills.
- d) The judges will not be told the name(s) of any applicants. The Educational Associate Degree Chair will redact the name of the applicant prior to sending each thesis to the judges.
- e) The list of judges will at no time be published or made public in order to protect the sanctity of the process, and to secure the judges from outside pressures.

- f) The thesis will be judged as follows:
  - (1) 80 possible points for concept  
(the idea presented and how successfully it is expressed, developed and substantiated)
  - (2) 10 possible points for style (judging of style is based upon the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers [7th edition] by Joseph Gibaldi. [[www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)]. Please refer to this book for guidelines on the correct style of the paper. A guideline for the bibliographic formatting of references is available on the ASP website.)
  - (3) 10 possible points for form and grammar
- g) A cumulative score of 85 on the thesis (out of a possible 100) is required from at least three (3) of five (5) judges in order to approve the granting of this degree.
- h) Successful candidates for the Educational Associate Degree will be awarded their degree at the next ASP Awards presentation.
- i) Each applicant will be notified individually of their result once the judging process is complete.
- j) Successful applicants may not use “ES-ASP” in their degree string or publicly announce their EA degree until they actually receive their Educational Associate Medal at the ASP awards ceremony.

#### IV. Right to Publish

1. The American Society of Photographers reserves the right to publish the thesis (in whole or in part) in any manner whatsoever as deemed necessary by the Board of Governors of the ASP, Inc.

#### V. Public Reference to the Educational Associate Degree by the Educational Associate Degree Holders

1. Recipients of the Educational Associate are duty-bound to maintain their membership in the ASP and PPA.
2. Persons receiving the Educational Associate should use EA-ASP in their degree string after their name. For persons holding both the Fellowship Degree and the Educational Associate Degree, the Fellowship Degree precedes the Educational Associate Degree in the degree string. PPA degrees precede ASP degrees (examples: M.Photog.Cr., EA-ASP and M.Photog.Cr., F-ASP, EA-ASP).

3. Recipients may add the EA-ASP designation to their degree string upon receipt of the Educational Associate Degree medal. They will receive their Educational Associate Degree medal at the next annual ASP Awards presentation following the earning of their degree. However, they may publicize their success in earning the degree upon official notification by the Educational Associate Degree Chair.

<sup>1</sup> Speaking/teaching/writing merits accumulated towards Educational Associate Degree expire upon any lapse of ASP membership (unless the membership is reactivated within an ASP sanctioned grace period). PPA speaking merits earned while not an ASP member will not count toward the required merits for this degree.

<sup>2</sup> The merits required for the Educational Associate Degree correlate directly with PPA speaking merits (those awarded for speaking, teaching and writing t). All other PPA merits (service and exhibition merits) are not applicable toward this degree.