



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Educational Associate Degree

Revised: February, 2023

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

1. ASP Professional Active, Life, and Honorary Life members are eligible to apply for the Educational Associate degree.
2. In addition, eligibility to apply for the ASP Educational Associate requires that an individual:
 - a. Holds the 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.¹
 - d. Has completed a minimum of three (3) consecutive years of membership in ASP and PPA prior to applying for the Educational Associate Degree.²

¹ The merits required for the Educational Associate Degree correlate directly with PPA speaking merits (those awarded for speaking, teaching, and writing). All other PPA merits (service and exhibition merits) are not applicable toward this degree.

² 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.

II. Submission Requirements

1. The applicant must write a thesis. The thesis must be a product of individual primary or secondary research³ and thought, and demonstrate the applicant's mastery of the field while supporting a position for a new idea, development, or trend.
 - a. The thesis should be between 3,500 and 10,000 words in length, exclusive of the bibliography and any illustrations. The thesis is to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document.
 - b. The concepts presented in the thesis must be corroborated by outside research, either primary or secondary in nature.
 - c. The range of topics is virtually unlimited but should relate, in some manner, to the field of photography.
2. The applicant must submit the completed application.
3. The applicant must submit the application fee of \$125.00.
4. 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).
5. In addition, the applicant must provide a PPA merit report in PDF form. (Download a current merit report from the MYPPA page on the PPA website.)
6. All of the required application components must be submitted to the Educational Associate Degree Chair on or before the submission deadlines.
7. The submission deadline for the application, headshot, biography, merit report, and application fee is July 1 of each calendar year.
8. The submission deadline for the thesis is August 15 of each calendar year.

III. The Judging Process

1. 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.
2. The Educational Associate Degree Chair will select a panel of five (5) judges. The judges must be approved by the ASP President prior to the jurying process.
3. The panel will be composed of four (4) ASP Educational Associate Degree holders and one (1) high school or college English instructor or other person qualified with writing skills, three of whom must award a score of 85 or higher to the paper in order for it to pass. The English professor or teacher must score the paper 80 or above.
4. 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.

³ Primary research consists of the scientific gathering and analysis of qualitative or quantitative data; while secondary research involves gathering information from other published sources.

5. The list of judges will at no time be published or made public in order to protect the sanctity of the process and preclude outside pressure on the judges.
6. The thesis will be judged as follows:
 - a. 80 possible points for concept (the idea presented and how successfully it is expressed, developed, and substantiated).
 - b. 10 possible points for style: Judging of style is based upon the *MLA Handbook* [9th edition] by the Modern Language Association of America or the *Chicago Manual of Style* (CMS). While these standards refer primarily to the formatting of notes and citations on the Works Cited page, both also give important guidance about academic writing and form. The *MLA Handbook* is available in both e-book and print formats at <https://style.mla.org/works-cited/citations-by-format/>, as are models of citations. The CMS may be accessed at <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>.
 - c. 10 possible points for grammar, usage, and mechanics.
7. 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. The English professor/teacher must score the paper 80 or above.
8. Successful candidates for the Educational Associate Degree will be awarded their degree at the next ASP Awards presentation.
9. Each applicant will be notified individually of their result once the judging process is complete.
10. Successful applicants may not use “EA-ASP” in their degree string until they actually receive their Educational Associate Medal at the ASP awards ceremony.

IV. Right to Publish

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 Educational Associate Degree Holders

1. Recipients of the Educational Associate Degree are duty-bound to maintain their membership in the ASP and PPA.
2. Persons receiving the Educational Associate Degree should use the credentials EA-ASP in their degree string after their name and any PPA degrees. 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. They may not publicize their success in earning the degree until authorized by the Educational Associate Degree Chair. (This is to coordinate publishing those results with the release of the Fellowship Degree.)