



ARTS Affiliate Program Description

May 25, 2015

Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries

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The Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries (ARTS)

In 2014, ARTS created an affiliate membership category to help promote the work of the Association within the broader Christian education community. Affiliation with ARTS is for institutions that do not intend or are not yet prepared to pursue ARTS accredited membership. This category of affiliate-membership, unlike accredited membership, is not restricted to US based graduate seminaries; extending to undergraduate and graduate colleges and seminaries both in the US and internationally.

Section 1: Affiliate Membership:

- 1) Organizations with substantial interest in the educational mission of ARTS; who seek to align themselves with the Association; and/or lack the readiness, qualifications, or inclination to seek accreditation, may become affiliate members.
- 2) To become an affiliate, an organization shall submit their application along with required application fees to the Commission on Accreditation (COA) for review and action at the next ARTS Commissioners' annual meeting or at a specially called meeting.
 - a. Based on the organization's application and COA review, ARTS affiliates are elected by a four-fifths vote of a quorum of the Commissioners.
 - b. Affiliate status allows for the appointment of representatives to and attendance at ARTS meetings and committees. However, affiliates have no voting status in the Association or Commission on Accreditation meetings and governance.
 - c. Affiliate status is granted for a five-year term and may be renewed.
 - d. Organizations holding affiliate status are not members of ARTS, and may not advertise themselves as having ARTS accreditation.

Section 2: Conditions of Affiliate Eligibility:

- 1) An institution desiring to become an ARTS' Affiliate shall submit an official statement from its chief executive officer and board chair, reflecting a decision of its board of control to pursue affiliation with ARTS and that the institution affirms the ARTS Tenets of Faith.
- 2) The institution shall provide validation that it is a non-profit organization and has the legal authority to operate in its location.

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- 3) The institution shall provide a clear and publically stated/board of control approved mission statement that is in accord with the ARTS core values.
- 4) Applicant's curricular offerings should be consistent with the rigor specified in the ARTS Standards for Accreditation.
- 5) The institution shall submit a complete application form, along with application fees designated in the Affiliate Application form provided on the ARTS Website or at the end of this document.

Section 3: Affiliate Requirements, Conditions, and Restrictions:

- 1) An Affiliate organization must not portray itself, verbally or in print, as an accredited member of ARTS.
- 2) Affiliate organizations must use the following disclosure statement: "[Institution Name] is an Affiliate institution of the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries. As such, it participates in and contributes to collegial and professional development activities of the Association, and is committed to the quality of education ARTS promotes. Affiliate status does not, however, constitute, imply, or presume ARTS accredited status at present or in the future."
- 3) Affiliates are required to annually reaffirm in writing adherence to the Association's Tenets of Faith, as set forth in the Association's Bylaws (Article I, Section 1.1.) This reaffirmation is to be delivered to the COA 30 days prior to the Association's Annual October Meeting.
- 4) Affiliates are required to remit to the COA their annual dues no later than January 1 of each year; organizations whose annual dues are more than 180 days delinquent may be dropped from the affiliate roster. Annual fees are described in the document presenting ARTS fees and dues found on the ARTS' Website or at the end of this document.
- 5) An institution may cease to be an Affiliate of ARTS by 1) voluntarily withdrawing, as stated in a letter of withdrawal, submitted to the COA, from its chief executive, 2) failure to pay annual fees, or 3) no longer subscribing to the Association's mission and tenets of faith (as determined by the affiliate or COA.)
- 6) Institutions that have withdrawn from affiliate status may seek reinstatement after a 2 year absence.

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- 7) An affiliate institution may appeal a decision by the COA to drop or deny its application for affiliate membership as described in the Association's policies and procedures controlling appeals in this document.

Section 4: Affiliation Benefits:

- 1) Affiliates are encouraged to participate in the collegiality, fellowship and accountability structure of ARTS.
- 2) Affiliates are allowed and encouraged to attend, as non-voting members, all ARTS meetings, and participate in ARTS committees.
- 3) Affiliates are allowed to develop academic relationships with any and all ARTS members. The Executive Director for ARTS-COA will help structure these academic relationships with other ARTS member schools.
- 4) Affiliates desiring to become full ARTS members can seek assistance from the Executive Director for ARTS-COA on how to proceed in progressing to full ARTS membership.

Section 5: Applying for Affiliation with ARTS:

1. Affiliate status award notifications are communicated by the Executive Director after a vote of the ARTS-COA.
2. The ARTS affiliate application fee is a non-refundable \$250.00 paid at the time of application. After an organization becomes an affiliate, the annual fee is \$500.00, to be paid by January 1 of each year.

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