



## **ARTS Affiliate Program Description**

**November, 2022**

# The Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries (ARTS)

In 2014, ARTS created an affiliate category to help promote the work of the Association within the broader Christian community. Affiliation with ARTS gives organizations that do not intend or are not yet prepared to pursue ARTS accredited membership.

## 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 fee 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 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: Five Conditions of Affiliate Eligibility

1. An institution desiring to become an ARTS Affiliate shall submit an official statement from its chief executive officer 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.
3. The institution shall provide a clear and publicly stated board of control approved mission statement that is in accord with the ARTS core values found on the website.
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 the application fee designated in the Affiliate Application form provided on the ARTS Website.

### 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 engaged in education must use the following disclosure statement on their website and any other place mentioning its association with ARTS:

**“[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 ARTS Executive Director on the Annual Report Form due every August 15.
4. Affiliates are required to remit to the COA their annual dues before each BOD Annual October Meeting; organizations whose annual dues are more than 90 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.
5. An institution may cease to be an Affiliate of ARTS by
  - a. voluntarily withdrawing, as stated in a letter of withdrawal, submitted to the COA, from its chief executive,
  - b. failure to submit the required Annual Report and/or pay the annual fees, or
  - c. 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.
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 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 involved in theological education are allowed to develop academic relationships with any and all ARTS members. The Executive Director 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. The awarding of Affiliate status is made at the annual meeting of the ARTS BOD following the vote of the COA on the preceding day. The ARTS annual meeting takes place in October each year. The deadline for affiliate applications to be addressed by the next meeting is August 31, annually.
2. The ARTS affiliate application fee is a non-refundable \$500.00 paid at the time of application. After an organization becomes an affiliate, the annual fee is \$600.00 paid before the annual meeting each October. Affiliate applicants do not pay their annual fee until after their first full year.