

## **AURA Membership Guidelines**

*Adopted by the AURA Board of Directors on May 4, 2017*

Membership in AURA is by invitation of the AURA President. The President of each Member Institution designates a Member Representative who has a voice in AURA matters. Together, the Member Representatives act upon membership applications.

1. The applicant institution should demonstrate that it has been successful in promoting astronomy in its own institution as evidenced by the quality, scope, and effectiveness of its astronomy program according to the guidelines below.

a. All Applicants

- i. A staff of five or more faculty or equivalent; and
- ii. A research program that, on assessment of its quality and effectiveness, would place the applicant among the ranking of current AURA members.

b. PhD-granting University

- i. A graduate program leading to a doctorate in astronomy, astrophysics, or related studies; and
- ii. An average of one or more doctorates awarded per year over a five-year period; and
- iii. Activities which further access to research and education in astronomy and astrophysics among undergraduate and graduate students, such as programs to promote access to research experiences for undergraduates using AURA facilities.

c. Non-PhD-Granting College or University

- i. An undergraduate and/or graduate program leading to placement in PhD-granting graduate schools in astronomy, astrophysics, or related studies; and
- ii. An average of one or more such placements per year over five years; and
- iii. Activities which further access to research and education in astronomy and astrophysics among undergraduate and graduate students, such as programs to promote access to research experiences for undergraduates using AURA facilities.

d. Consortia of Colleges or Universities

- i. The above guidelines for colleges or universities will apply both to individual institutions and to consortia comprised of such institutions. When a consortium applies for membership in AURA, the consortium as a whole may satisfy the guidelines given above for individual institutions.
- iii. When a consortium joins AURA, it will designate a single point of contact with AURA.
- iv. After a consortium joins AURA, the consortium shall notify AURA of changes in its scope or organization.

e. Other Nonprofit Institutions

- i. Significant contributions to astronomical research through the operation of facilities or sites or through other means; and
- ii. Programs to promote astronomy, for example, through public or private education.

2. The applicant institution or consortium should have demonstrated an involvement in AURA's role and mission in astronomy through:

- a. Publications by faculty or staff, and, if applicable, by students based upon data gathered at AURA facilities; and
- b. Service by faculty or staff on AURA's Board of Directors as Directors-at-Large or on AURA Centers' advisory or review committees, such as visiting, users, telescope time allocation, *etc.*