

PGMS LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

# Accreditation **PROGRAM**



- Increase Your Return on Grounds Investment
- Reinforce Your Focus on Productivity and Effectiveness
- Demonstrate You are Dedicated to Sustainable Grounds Management Practices
- Promote Consistency in Achieving Your Grounds Management Goals and Objectives
- Be Recognized for Your Professional Excellence



# PGMS

[www.pgms.org](http://www.pgms.org)

# What is the PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation?

**T**he PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation program is a dynamic evaluation tool that can be utilized by facilities and organizations that have a landscape services or grounds component. Through peer expertise, the program evaluates strategic grounds management principles and practices that produce and guide the delivery of properties to an attractive, healthy, sustainable and high quality state. The PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation verifies and recognizes an environmental management systems approach applied to a grounds management template.



# How does the PGMS Landscape Management and Operations program benefit your organization?

**To meet current demanding environmental challenges and expectations, grounds and landscape operational functions should effectively integrate with sound management practices. This accreditation offers the roadmap for this process and provides organizations with the following benefits:**

- A systematic approach in performing an objective assessment of an organization's grounds management component by a nationally recognized independent entity, the Professional Grounds Management Society;
- Increase the organization's ability to realize the highest return on its grounds investment;
- Provide a means of evaluating the grounds program against industry standards and best practices to improve performance;
- Evaluate the grounds program relative to established benchmarks for environmental awareness;
- Ensure that the grounds component within the organization is properly set up to best implement existing and new environmental stewardship and sustainability initiatives;
- Reinforce grounds management focus on productivity and effectiveness through critical evaluation of programs and services;
- Integrate activities that exhibit a proactive approach to ensuring the success of grounds related projects;
- Demonstrate that the organization is dedicated to the continuous improvement of grounds management practices, and is successful in translating effective management into exceptional grounds;
- Promote predictability and consistency in achieving grounds management obligations;
- Obtain stakeholder feedback and participation in meeting grounds component goals and objectives;
- Generate information for grounds adaptation measures that align with the organization's capacity to meet maintenance requirements.

“Recognizing that study after study has demonstrated the critical value grounds play in a student's ultimate selection of a university or campus, and further recognizing the vital role of a strong sustainability program, APPA salutes PGMS for its exciting grounds accreditation program and, in so doing, encourages its members to consider measuring their respective grounds operations against the best practices developed by PGMS.”

– E. Lander Medlin, APPA Executive Vice President

# What are the steps for accreditation?

“The Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation is something that will show your commitment to excellence using the most economical, sustainable and environmental landscape management principles. I cannot think of a better investment that shows your campus or community that you are serious about delivering the most sustainable and environmentally friendly landscapes using sound economic models.”

– Cary Avery, CGM  
Associate Director  
University of California-Davis

- 1 Organization requests information/application from PGMS
- 2 PGMS sends accreditation package to applicant
- 3 Organization completes site survey questionnaire and submits formal application to PGMS
- 4 Application review by Accreditation Committee
- 5 Initiate scheduling of site visit by PGMS
- 6 PGMS identifies site evaluation team
- 7 PGMS confirms site visit with applicant
- 8 Evaluators conduct site visit and prepare report
- 9 Accreditation Committee reviews report for needed clarifications
- 10 Accreditation Committee approves or denies accreditation\*











\*Remedies for denials will be provided.

## Are there different levels of accreditation?

The PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation program has four (4) levels of accreditation. It is designed to not only recognize excellence but to provide a means by which facilities can measure growth and improvements in meeting the goals of best practices. Accreditations will be awarded to deserving applicants based on a 200 point evaluation system and on a four-star recognition system.

*If appropriate, once an applicant has been evaluated and results provided, the applicant will be given opportunities, including at time of re-accreditation, to address specific best practices and possibly gain additional stars.*

## RATING SYSTEM

	EVALUATION POINTS REQUIRED
	114-127 points
 	128-141 points
  	142-165 points
   	166+ points

## What is the investment needed for Accreditation?

A goal of the accreditation program is to be attractive and feasible for all grounds organizations responsible for large campus (educational, corporate, athletic, etc.) landscape services or overall grounds operations. An Accreditation candidate's initial investment is calculated based on all travel expenses required to send a team of professional evaluators to the evaluation site as well as general administration and professional support. Fees will range depending on the size and complexity of the grounds operation being evaluated.

## How can I get more information?

### Contact:

Professional Grounds Management Society  
9 Newport Dr. Suite 200  
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Phone: 443-966-3852  
Fax: 443-640-1031  
E-mail: [info@pgms.org](mailto:info@pgms.org)  
Web: [www.pgms.org](http://www.pgms.org)

## Once accredited, what must be done to maintain the accreditation?

This accreditation process and subsequent follow-up measures combine to exemplify a commitment to continuous improvement. The PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation is initially awarded for three years. An accredited facility must then seek to be re-accredited through a mandatory update report provided by the organization that verifies the continuing conformance to best practices and the adherence to the principles of the accreditation.

*A small re-accreditation fee will be applicable.*

“As the awareness of environmental sustainability issues has grown, so has the importance for grounds and land care professionals to understand the impact of their campuses upon the natural environment. Developing our Landscape Management and Operations presentation, presenting to the team of colleagues from PGMS, and reviewing the panel's findings was a truly collaborative effort which provided a positive critique of our operation. I found the experience to be professional, eye opening and extremely helpful for planning the direction of our Grounds and Landscape operation in the future.”

– **Michael F. Loftus, CGM**  
**Assistant Director of Facilities-Grounds**  
**University of Delaware**

