

Independent Institutions: Board Member Orientation

AGB
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Complete this online self-paced program as an introductory or refresher course about higher education governance for independent institutions, essential board responsibilities, fiduciary duties, and boardroom culture. Board Member Orientation is included with AGB membership. A digital certificate and badge are conveyed upon course completion.

Program Overview: Introduction and Structure

MODULE 1

Governance in Higher Education

Lesson 1: Essential Responsibilities of Governing Boards

- » The Principles of Trusteeship
- » Elements of Effective Governing Boards
- » Characteristics of High-Performing Boards
- » Expectations

Lesson 2: Governance in Higher Education

- » Differences Between Corporate and Higher Education Boards
- » Independent Institutions: Scope
- » Strategic Issues
- » Top Strategic Themes

Lesson 3: The Role of Governance and Management

- » Effective Enterprise Leadership
- » Who Decides What?

Lesson 4: Shared Governance

- » What is Shared Governance?
- » Best Practices: Making Shared Governance Work
- » Suggested Practices for Three-Way Information Sharing to Facilitate Shared Governance

MODULE 2

Fiduciary Duties of Governing Board Members

Lesson 1: What is a Fiduciary?

- » Trustees are Fiduciaries
- » What are Fiduciary Duties?
- » Overview of Care, Loyalty, and Obedience
- » Board Engagement

Board member orientation courses are included with AGB membership. Contact conciierge@AGB.org with questions.

[AGB.org/Orientation](https://www.agb.org/Orientation)

Email conciierge@AGB.org or call 202-296-8400 with questions.

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MODULE 3

Responsibilities of Governing Boards

Lesson 1: Understand and Support the Mission

- » The Importance of the Mission Statement

Lesson 2: The Chief Executive

- » The Chief Executive and Board Partnership
- » How Boards Help or Hinder the President
- » Performance Assessment Strategies
- » Assessment and Compensation
- » Executive Compensation

Lesson 3: Strategic Planning

- » Basic Roles in Strategic Planning
- » The Board's Role in Framing Strategic Issues

Lesson 4: Fiscal Integrity

- » Defining Fiscal Integrity
- » Board Responsibility and Legal Compliance
- » Ensuring Fiscal Integrity
- » The Higher Education Business Model
- » The Board's Advocacy Role
- » The Board's Role in Fundraising

Lesson 5: Academic Oversight and Education Quality

- » Governing Board Responsibilities
- » Ensuring Academic Oversight and Educational Quality
- » Educational Quality

MODULE 4

Board Dynamics

Lesson 1: Autonomy and Academic Freedom

- » History of Academic Freedom
- » The Board's Role in Academic Freedom
- » Institutional Autonomy
- » The Impact of the Dartmouth Decision
- » Academic Freedom

Lesson 2: Engaging with Constituents

- » Internal Constituents
- » External Constituents

Lesson 3: Board Policies and Operations

- » Understanding Roles and Policies
- » Policies
- » Board Leadership
- » Committees

Lesson 4: Board Culture

- » Commitment Statement
- » Unhealthy Boards
- » Healthy, Effective Boards

Understand the issues confronting your organization, prepare yourself for effective performance, and fulfill your board and leadership responsibilities. Join the hundreds of trustees from independent higher education institutions who have enhanced their leadership impact with AGB educational programs.

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