

# Public Institutions: Board Member Orientation

**AGB**  
Certificate  
of Completion

Complete this online self-paced program as an introductory or refresher course about higher education governance for board members of two- and four-year public institutions and systems. This course includes an overview of the essential principles of governance, board responsibilities, and the board-president partnership. It includes a specific module on open meetings and open records. 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
- » Responsibilities and Expectations

##### Lesson 2: Governance in Higher Education

- » Differences Between Corporate and Higher Education Boards
- » Scope of Public Boards
- » Governance of Public Institutions
- » 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 for 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?

##### Lesson 2: Care, Loyalty, and Obedience

- » Guidelines for Implementing the Duties of Care, Loyalty, and Obedience

Board member orientation courses are included with AGB membership. Contact [conciierge@AGB.org](mailto:conciierge@AGB.org) with questions.

[AGB.org/Orientation](http://AGB.org/Orientation)

Email [conciierge@AGB.org](mailto:conciierge@AGB.org) or call 202-296-8400 with questions.

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## Program Overview

### MODULE 3

#### Responsibilities of Governing Boards

##### Lesson 1: Understand and Support the Mission

- » The Importance of the Mission Statement
- » Living the Mission

##### Lesson 2: The Chief Executive

- » The Chief Executive and Board Partnership
- » How Boards Help or Hinder the President
- » Differences between Systems and Single Institutions
- » Assessment and Compensation
- » Executive Compensation

##### Lesson 3: Strategic Planning

- » Basic Roles and Responsibilities
- » The Role of Boards 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
- » Cost Drivers in Higher Education
- » 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
- » 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

##### Lesson 5: Open Meetings and Open Records

- » Sunshine Laws of Public Institutions
- » Public Institution Considerations
- » Strategies for Effective Board Meeting Interaction in an Open Meeting Environment

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

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