

U.S. Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools (1974 / 2013)
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Correspondent" and "Candidate") within the United States of advanced rabbinical and Talmudic schools to include Baccalaureate, Masters, Doctorate, and First Rabbinic and First Talmudic degrees programs
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Correspondent" and "Candidate") within the United States of advanced rabbinical and Talmudic schools to include Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters, Doctorate, and First Rabbinic and First Talmudic degrees programs
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 05/22/2018
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for five years and grant the agency's request for an expansion of its scope of recognition to include the accreditation of Associate Degrees.
7. **Issues or Problems:** None

Executive Summary

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools, Accreditation Commission (AARTS) is a national institutional accreditor. The agency's scope of recognition is for the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Correspondent" and "Candidate") of advanced rabbinical and Talmudic schools. ("Talmud" is the collection of Rabbinic writings that date back to the third century whose writings form the basis of religious authority for traditional Judaism.) AARTS institutions grant postsecondary degrees such as the baccalaureate, master's, doctorate, first rabbinic and first Talmudic degrees.

Of the 75 AARTS institutions (62 accredited and 13 candidates), the majority are located within the New York metropolitan area. In addition, AARTS schools are located in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Approximately 56 AARTS schools have a total enrollment of under 200 students (with 39 of those schools having less than 100 students). Nine schools have an enrollment of between 200 and 300, while ten schools have over 300 students.

The agency's recognition enables its institutions to establish eligibility to receive Federal student assistance funding under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (Title IV). The agency serves as the Title IV gatekeeper for almost all of the institutions it accredits. Consequently, the agency must meet the Secretary's separate and independent requirements.

Recognition History

AARTS was first added to the list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies in 1974 and has received periodic renewal of recognition since that time. The agency was last reviewed for continued recognition at the June 2013 meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). After that review, the Department extended the agency's previous grant of recognition and required a compliance report on the issues cited in the staff analysis. At its June 2015 meeting the NACIQI accepted the AARTS's Compliance report and the SDO renew the agency's recognition for two and one half years.

The AARTS's Petition for Continued Recognition is the subject of this report. The agency is also requesting an expansion of its scope of accreditation to include Associate degrees. As part of its evaluation of the agency's petition, Department staff reviewed the agency's narrative and supporting documentation and observed an on-site evaluation conducted by the agency in Brooklyn New York . The Department received no third-party comments in connection with the agency's petition for continued recognition.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third - party comments regarding this agency.