**Timeline Example for Seeking Initial ALA Accreditation**

Length of Precandidacy and Candidacy status periods will vary depending on the progress of program development. See *Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures, 4th ed*., [I.8.4 Precandidacy status and I.9.4 Candidacy status](http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/AP3/4thedition/AP3_4th_ed_I.8_rev05-17-17.pdf).

**Academic Year**

2015-2016 Program submits an application for Precandidacy status by October 1, 2015, which

COA approves in November 2015.

Program submits statistics by December 1, 2015.

Program submits an Annual Progress Report by February 15, 2016.

2016-2017 Program submits a Candidacy application by October 1, 2016\*

which COA grants in November 2016, scheduling the visit for fall 2018.

2017-2018 Candidacy status

Office proposes a chairperson to lead external review panel (ERP).

Program submits a plan for the self-study 12 months before the visit that is reviewed and commented on by the ERP chair and the director of the Office for Accreditation.

By December 1, 2017, program submits annual statistics based on ALISE statistical questionnaires. See Required Reports for instructions.

2018-2019 Program submits a draft Self-Study four months before the visit.

Visitby an external review panel takes place in the fall term.

COA makes initial accreditation decision at the next ALA Midwinter Meeting.

\*May choose February 15 or October 1 to submit an application and may remain in Precandidacy for three years, with a one three-year extension possible.