

College Accreditation

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What is Accreditation?

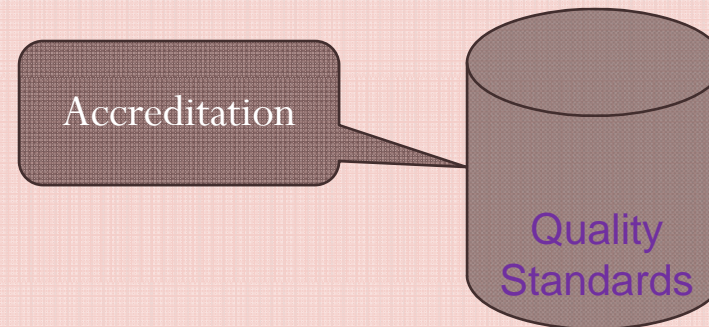
“The periodic process of peer/professional review that requires colleges and universities to examine and provide evidence of student achievement and institutional performance, among many other features of institutional operation. Accreditation provides a foundation for the various accountability efforts through review of institutions and programs to assure that fundamentals for academic quality are in place and that institutions are living up to their commitments to students and society and are improving what they do.”

Judith Eaton, President of Council for Higher Education Accreditation, 2009

What is Accreditation?

“**Accreditation** is the recognition that an institution **MAINTAINS STANDARDS** requisite for its graduates to **GAIN ADMISSION TO OTHER REPUTABLE INSTITUTIONS** of higher learning or to **ACHIEVE CREDENTIALS FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets **ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF QUALITY**”

“**Accreditation** means the status of public recognition that an accrediting agency grants to an educational institution or program that meets the agency's standards and requirements”.



U.S. Department of Education

What is Accreditation?

“The periodic process of PEER/PROFESSIONAL REVIEW that requires colleges and universities to examine and provide EVIDENCE OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT and institutional performance, among many other features of institutional operation.

Accreditation provides a foundation for the various accountability efforts through review of institutions and programs to ASSURE THAT FUNDAMENTALS FOR ACADEMIC QUALITY are in place and that institutions are living up to their COMMITMENTS TO STUDENTS and society and are IMPROVING what they do.”

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What is Accreditation?

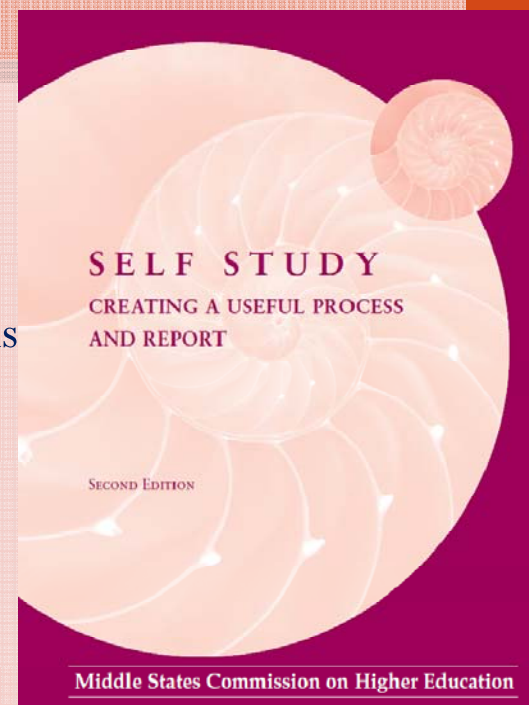
Accreditation is a rigorous evaluation of post secondary institutions that ensure that post-secondary education in the USA (U.S. Secretary of Education):

- Is rigorously reviewed by qualified professional peers
- Can provide evidence of **appropriate** student achievement
- Assure academic quality
- Commitment to students and society
- **Continually** Improve current process/facilities/resources/etc.

How are Schools Accredited?

Based on Middle State Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)

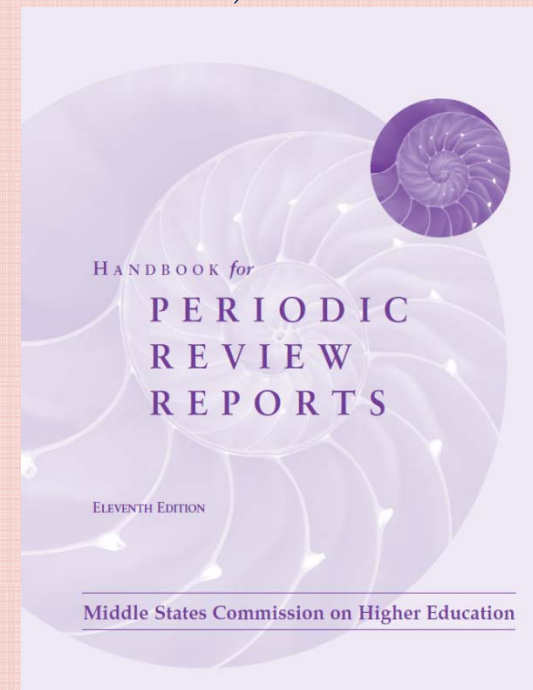
- Pay an annual fee \$1,000 to \$21,000 (depends on budget)
- Submit a report and to a visit every 10 years
 - a review of peers
 - must follow-up on recommendations
 - must provide evidence of improvement
 - must provide evidence of remediation of recommendations
- May have to submit samples of **student work**



How are Schools Accredited?

Based on Middle State Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)

- Submit a report every 5 years
 - Review by peers
 - Overview of institution (enrollment, programs, fiscal resources)
 - Assessment & continuous improvement initiatives
 - Evidence of improvement
 - Evidence of remediation of recommendations



How are Schools Accredited?

Based on Middle State Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)

Peers & MSCHE judges

- Has a mission appropriate to higher education
- Guided by well-defined and appropriate goals, including goals for student learning
- Has established conditions and procedures under which its mission and goals can be realized
- Assesses both institutional effectiveness and student learning outcomes, and uses the results for improvement

How are Schools Accredited?

Based on Middle State Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)

Peers & MSCHE judges

- Accomplishing its mission and goals substantially
- Organized, staffed, and supported so that it can be expected to continue to accomplish its mission and goals
- Meets the eligibility requirements and MSCHE standards

Why Accreditation?

Based on Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

- Makes higher education “legit”
- Major source of protection against fraud (diploma mills)
- Maintain quality of higher education
- Encourage efficient use of resources
- Speaks to increased demand for public accountability
- Essential to global mobility
- Essential to the recognition that USA has best higher education system in the world
 - Academic freedom
 - Diverse set of institutions
 - Institutional independence

Accreditation Agencies

- Seven regional accreditation agencies
 - Degree granting institutions **MUST** be accredited by one of these
- Several special focus accreditation agencies
 - Non-degree (certificates or diplomas) granting agencies can be accredited for **Title IV** purposes
 - Examples http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg7.html.
 - Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology
 - Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools
 - Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training
 - Council on Occupational Education
 - Distance Education and Training Council, Accrediting Commission
- Lots of specialized program accreditation agencies-
http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg8.html#NationalInstitutional.

Accreditation Agencies Resources

Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA): <http://www.chea.org/>

Department of Education, Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs: <http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>.

Accreditation Agencies Resources

Regional Accreditation Agencies (7)



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Middle States Commission of Higher
Education: <http://www.msche.org/>.

List of colleges & schools- http://www.msche.org/institutions_directory.asp.



New England Association of
Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

New England Association of Schools and
Colleges, Commission on Institutions of
Higher Education: <http://www.neasc.org/>.

List of colleges & schools- http://cihe.neasc.org/about_our_institutions/roster_of_institutions/.

Accreditation Agencies Resources

Regional Accreditation Agencies (7)



Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Accrediting Commission for Schools: <http://www.acswasc.org/index.htm>.

List of colleges & schools- http://www.acswasc.org/directory_search.cfm.



A Commission of the
North Central Association
of Colleges and Schools

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools: Higher Learning Commission: <http://www.ncahlc.org/>.

List of colleges & schools-

http://www.ncahlc.org/index.php?option=com_directory&Itemid=192.

Accreditation Agencies Resources

Regional Accreditation Agencies (7)



Commission on Colleges: Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. (SACS): <http://www.sacscoc.org/>.

List of colleges & schools- <http://www.sacscoc.org/>.



Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities: <http://www.nwccu.org/>.

List of colleges & schools-

http://www.nwccu.org/Directory_of_Inst/Directory_of_Institutions.htm.

Accreditation Agencies Resources

Regional Accreditation Agencies (7)



New York State Board of Regents, and the Commissioner of Education: <http://www.nysed.gov/> .

List of colleges & schools- <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/oris/colleges.htm>.

Accreditation Agencies Resources

Specialized Programs- Examples



Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET): <http://abet.org/>.



Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE):

<http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit.aspx>.



The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB): <http://aacsb.edu/>.

Accreditation Agencies Resources

Specialized Programs- Examples



National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
(NCATE): <http://www.ncate.org/>.



National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST):
<http://nast.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp>.



National League for Nursing (NLN):
<http://www.nln.org/aboutnln/index.htm>.

Accreditation Agencies Resources

Specialized Programs- Examples

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING



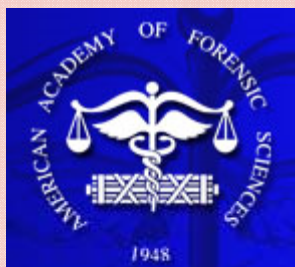
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE):

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/accreditation/>.



American Chemistry Society (ACS):

<http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content>.



National Academic of Forensic Science (FEPAC):

http://www.aafs.org/default.asp?section_id=aafs&page_id=committees&subpage_id=fepac.

Advisor Advice

For your advisees/students:

- 0.) Call school's financial aid office and ask if it is eligible under Title IV
- 1.) Check to see if school he/she interested is accredited by one of the seven accreditation agencies
- 2.) Check to see if major at that school has specialized accreditation status (ex. Nursing, Engineering, Education, ...Not so much English or Philosophy)
- 3.) Check to see if school is accredited by a "special focus accreditation agency"

Title IV

The school must have accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the **U.S. Department of Education** to be eligible to participate in the administration of federal student aid programs. Accreditation means that the school meets certain minimum academic standards, as defined by the accrediting body.



Questions?