



Unveiling the Impact of Accreditation on College Campuses

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Definition:

Accreditation is **the recognition from an accrediting agency that an institution maintains a certain level of educational standards.**

Goal:

The goal of accreditation is **to ensure that institutions of higher education meet acceptable levels of quality.** Accreditation in the United States involves non-governmental entities (accrediting organizations) as well as federal and state government agencies (these three entities are formally known as the Triad).

Accreditation by SACSCOC :

Accreditation by SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) is a statement of the institution's **continuing commitment to quality and integrity** as well as its **capacity to provide effective programs and services** based on agreed-upon accreditation standards.

How long?

All institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) are required to undergo a review for reaffirmation of accreditation every ten years.



Purposes of Accreditation

1. Validates quality: Accreditation ensures that the institution and its programs meet certain standards of quality, helping to assure students and other stakeholders that the education and training received will be of a high quality.
2. Compliance with standards: Accreditation verifies that the institution is in compliance with regulations and standards set forth by the accrediting body, ensuring that the institution is operating legally and ethically.
3. Reputation and credibility: Accreditation enhances the reputation and credibility of the institution, making it more attractive to potential students and other stakeholders.



Purposes of Accreditation

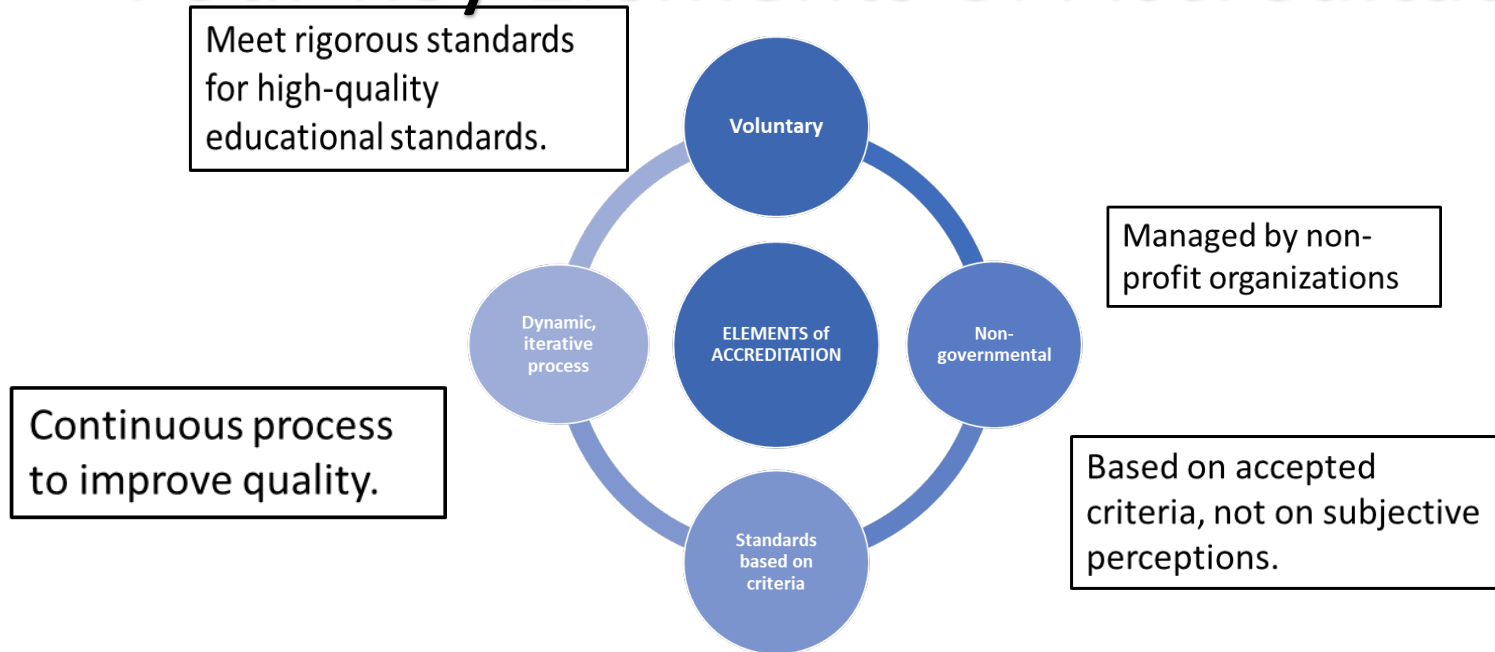
1. Transfer of credits and degree recognition: Accreditation helps facilitate the transfer of credits between institutions and ensures that degrees earned at one institution are recognized by others.
2. Federal funding and financial aid: Accreditation is often a requirement for institutions to be eligible for federal funding and financial aid programs.
3. Continuous improvement: Accreditation provides opportunities for continuous improvement, as institutions must regularly demonstrate their compliance with standards and make any necessary changes.



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Four Key Elements of Accreditation



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Benefits of Accreditation and External Reviews

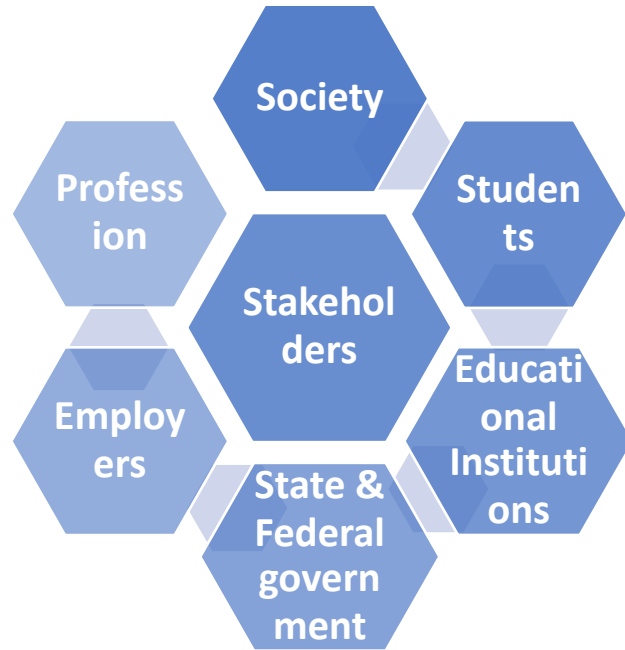
- Assures educational quality and integrity,
- Fosters continuous self-improvement,
- Promotes student success
- Establishes facilities' commitment to higher standards and gives them a competitive edge.
- Creates opportunity to prove their worth by adhering to publicly recognized, peer-reviewed standards
- Breaks down silos, streamlines cross-departmental processes and creates a team approach to any opportunities for improvement
- Demonstrates to the community the facility's commitment and dedication to provide exceptional and excellence in education
- Expands eligibility for federal student aid.



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Stakeholders in the Accreditation Process



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Impact of Accreditation and External Reviews

- Enrollment and admissions.
- Academic reputation and internationalization.
- Promotion of research and innovation
- Stakeholder satisfaction and employability
- Quality of faculty, curriculum and learning outcomes



Activity

1. What are some of the challenges universities face during the accreditation process, and how do they overcome them?
2. How does accreditation affect the reputation and credibility of the institution?
3. How does the institution demonstrate its commitment to maintaining accreditation standards and continuously improving the quality of its education and programs?



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Discussion



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Questions



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