



## The Journey to Accreditation

**The Goal:** Quality in higher education.

**What Gets Accredited?** Higher education programs and institutions committed to quality and continuously improving performance.

**How Do They Get Accredited?** Programs and schools undergo an intensive peer review to evaluate operating policies and practices.

### What Gets Evaluated?

- Teaching & Research
- Professional or Specialized Program Curriculum
- Ethics/Integrity
- Evaluation & Assessment of Outcomes
- Faculty Qualifications
- Financial Resources
- Library, Information & Learning Resources
- Mission & Planning
- Organization & Administration
- Physical, Laboratory & Training Facilities
- Student Support Services

*Accreditation assures us that higher education programs and institutions meet professional standards of academic and operational integrity and quality.*

**How Do They Achieve Accreditation?** Critical milestones on the journey to accreditation.



The accretor also considers public comments and formal complaints about institutions or programs as part of the evaluation process.

more >>>

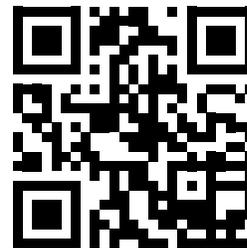
**Who Maps the Journey to Accreditation?** We all do! Designed with the best interests of the public, accreditation is achieved through a consensus process that calls for input from educators, students, practitioners, regulators and the general public. Opportunities for the public to provide input may include third-party comments, public interest panels and/or members of the public serving on review teams or on the decision-making body. To promote accuracy, fairness and integrity, the entire process is guided by published procedures that include systems of checks and balances, requirements for documentation of standards compliance and means for institutional response to evaluation results at various stages.

**How Long Does Accreditation Last?** Accredited programs and institutions are periodically reviewed for reaccreditation to ensure quality standards are maintained. Moreover, standards are continuously improved through comments from practitioners, educators and other communities of interest. If there are complaints or problems that need to be addressed, the program or institution must resolve these quickly. Programs that fail to meet requirements will have accreditation withdrawn.

### **A Note About ASPA**

This Quick Reference was developed by the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)—an advocate for quality in higher education through specialized and professional accreditation.

Scan to watch video.



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and Professional Accreditors**

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