

Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors

Criteria for Success in Accreditation

This statement describes several criteria by which the success of any accreditation effort could be judged.

An accrediting body is successful if it is able to:

- Promote trust within its own specific accreditation arena and maintain the trust of higher education, the public, the professions, and the accreditation community based on its ability to balance numerous interests and perspectives with integrity and fairness.
- Uphold by word and deed the highest ideals and standards of service.
- Promote effective balances among autonomy, mutual accountability, diversity, and common responsibility.
- Develop effective standards, policies, and decisions that advance quality education, cooperation and creativity.
- Stimulate development of evaluation concepts that promote substantive educational results.
- Enjoy a reputation for independence, due process, intellectual depth, and technical competence.
- Serve as a primary source of expertise and assistance in matters of evaluation and quality assurance to the many constituents of accreditation.

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