# ****Accreditation: Meaning, Importance, Functions& More****

The meaning of accreditation is the formal recognition of the actions or processes of a person who has a specific identity or is qualified to perform a specific activity.It's also a recognition of a person's contribution to or accomplishment of anything. The accreditation definition also safeguards the interests of students, parents, academic institutions, and future employers by ensuring that educational programmes are offered in accordance with or beyond the requirements established by subject experts.

#### Importance of Accreditation:

* Assists in determining whether or not a facility meets or exceeds minimum quality standards.
* Assists students in determining which colleges appropriate for them to attend.
* Assist institutions in determining whether transfer credits are acceptable.
* Assists employers in determining the quality of educational programs and whether or not a graduate is qualified.
* Besides, employers frequently want proof that applicants have graduated from a recognized institution or program.

#### Accreditation serves the following purposes:

* Assuring that an institution or program has fulfilled set criteria.
* Assisting prospective students in locating appropriate educational institutions.
* Assisting universities in deciding if transfer credits are acceptable.

The accreditation process was developed in the United States as a way of non-governmental peer review of educational institutions and programs to ensure quality benchmarks. Private education groups with regional or national influence have established standards that represent the attributes of good education programs, and have designed review agencies or programs to check whether they meet basic quality standards.

#### Reasons to choose accreditation program:

Accreditors act as quality enforcers in the United States, verifying that schools and programs satisfy specific requirements in terms of courses, staff, buildings, resources, and student services. Choosing an approved institution or program might have a variety of different consequences. Let's take a look at how accreditation may affect your education.

* You must attend a college or university that is accredited by a recognized accrediting agency to be eligible for US government financial aid. Accrediting agencies overseen and reviewed by the US Department of Education and the independent Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
* Accreditation does not ensure that college credits will transfer from one school to another. However, many schools accredited by the same organization have arrangements in place to make credit transfer easy. This might affect your ability to transfer credits if you plan to attend classes at a community college before transferring to a four-year university.
* Certifications and examinations: In order to appear for the exam or be given the certification, certain state licensing exams require graduates to come from institutions or degree programs that have received accreditation from recognized accreditors.
* When applying for a job, recruiters and hiring managers may want to confirm that you have earned a degree through a recognized accrediting agency, and not an unaccredited institution or organization that can sell paid degrees without academic effort. Diploma factories sometimes claim to be accredited or even create their own unrecognized certification organizations. The Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) tracks accrediting agencies and respected "accredited" schools across the country.

## ****What is Accreditation?****

Universities in India, with the exception of those created by an Act of Parliament, must be accredited. No higher education institution in India may award degrees or claim to be a university without accreditation. In India, there are several certifying bodies for higher education, including the UGC, NAAC, NBA, AICTE, and others.

Institutions of higher education use strict procedures to ensure that they meet strict educational requirements. Certification is the term. Several commercial and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) evaluate courses and institutions on a voluntary basis, and institutions such as the Higher Education Accreditation Board review them according to their own quality standards.  This external quality assessment is carried out voluntarily by industry experts. Institutions and individual courses can be accredited regionally and nationally, allowing a school to earn multiple legal accreditations at the same time.

## ****Higher Education Accreditation Bodies in India:****

### University Grants Commission (UGC):

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is one of India's foremost accrediting agencies for higher education. To provide various courses, administer examinations, grant degrees, and so on, all higher learning establishments in India must acquire UGC approval. According to UGC guidelines, all Indian colleges must handle admissions, hire professors, pay salaries, and so on. In addition, the University Grants Commission (UGC) sets guidelines for several aspects of higher education in Indian universities and colleges. Furthermore, "Fake Universities" are universities that do not have UGC permission or accreditation, and students should avoid enrolling in them.

### All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is one of India's most prominent accreditation agencies for technical and management institutes. AICTE clearance is required for all higher learning schools that offer engineering, management, and pharmacy programs. Indeed, the AICTE regulates a total of ten statutory bodies, and courses offered by these statutory bodies must be approved by the AICTE. Before enrolling in an institute's engineering, management, or pharmacy programs, students should check the AICTE's approval. The AICTE establishes regulations and standards for the establishment of new colleges, the extension of current college approvals, and the cancellation of existing college approvals.

### Association of Indian Universities (AIU)

The Association of Indian Institutions (AIU) is both an organization and a consortium of India's leading universities. The AIU's main task is to review overseas universities' syllabi, standards, courses, and credits and compare them to varsity courses given by Indian universities. Furthermore, the AIU is involved in the certification of UGC-approved Indian universities' credentials. The AIU also acts as an implementing organization for Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), or agreements, that are signed between India and other countries as part of Cultural Exchange Programs.

## ****Why is Accreditation Important?****

Accordingly, the meaning of accreditation is important because it establishes a set of quality criteria for all educational institutions or programs, allows for federal and state financing, maintains private sector confidence, and facilitates credit transfer. Furthermore, accreditation strives to guarantee that institutions and degree programs are accountable, therefore increasing public trust and confidence. When an institution or degree program is fully accredited, you may assess its overall quality without having to perform your own thorough investigation.

Accreditation forces organizations to meet and maintain high standards, improve the public's trust in them, and at the same time increase their sense of responsibility. This gives potential students and their families confidence in the schools and courses based on the accreditation they have earned. Certification leads to accountability and a higher level of educational quality. As a student or parent reading this article, you can be sure that the institution or course you choose has passed strict quality standards and has been reviewed by others in the field.

#### Accreditation is important for the following purposes:

* Assists in determining if a facility meets or exceeds minimal quality requirements.
* Assists students in determining which colleges are appropriate for them to attend.
* Assist institutions in deciding if transfer credits are acceptable.
* Assists companies in determining the legitimacy of educational programs and whether or not a graduate is qualified.
* Employers frequently want proof that candidates have graduated from an authorized institution or program.
* Assists companies in determining if their employees are eligible for tuition reimbursement schemes.
* Besides, provides graduates with the opportunity to appear for certification exams.
* Incorporates institutional assessment and planning into the work of staff, professors, students, graduates, and advisory boards.
* Establishes self-improvement objectives for the institution.
* Further, offers a self-regulatory alternative to government monitoring.
* Establishes a foundation for assessing eligibility for federal student aid. To qualify for federal scholarships or loans, students must attend an approved college.

## ****What are the Functions of Accreditations?****

The definition of accreditation has two purposes: to ensure the quality of the organization or project, and to help improve the organization or project. In addition, certification serves various stakeholders by achieving the two goals of quality assurance and planning and institutional improvement.

### ****Accreditation provides to the Public:****

* Therefore, ensure compliance with the general expectations of higher education or professional fields; ensure compliance with the general expectations of higher education or professional fields; ensure compliance with the broad expectations of higher education or the workplace.
* In addition, it also lists institutions and plans that have voluntarily carried out and are effectively implementing actions aimed at improving the quality of institutions and their professional plans.
* Furthermore, when accredited programs update their criteria to reflect changes in generally accepted knowledge and practice in the field, the quality of professional services available to the general public improves.
* There is less need for government interference in educational institutions' operations since their institutions, through accreditation, are responsible for maintaining and improving educational quality on their own.

### ****Accreditation provides to Students:****

* Confirm that the educational activities of the authorized institution or plan have been determined to be satisfactory and meet the needs of the students.
* When the student's performance satisfactory and the credits to be transferred appropriate for the receiving institution, the universal acceptance of credits between accredited institutions will aid in the transfer of credits between institutions or help students to obtain advanced degrees.
* Furthermore, in many cases, this is a requirement to enter a profession.

### ****Accreditation provides INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION:****

* Stimulus provides motivation for self-assessment and self-directed system and plans improvement.
* Strengthen the self-evaluation of institutions and plans through the evaluation and recommendations of the certification agencies. The use of
* Certification agency standards, which widely recognized in higher education, and help prevent external infractions that damage the quality of institutions or courses by setting benchmarks independent of influence that may affect specific institutions.

### ****Accreditation provides PROFESSIONS by:****

* Allow professionals to participate in the formulation of professional access conditions;
* Promote professional unity by bringing together professionals, teachers, and students to carry out activities aimed at strengthening professional preparation and practice.

## ****What is the Procedure of Accrediting Universities & Educational Institutions?****

Accordingly, Higher education accreditation is a collaborative process based on self and peer evaluation. Its goal is to raise academic standards and increase public responsibility. This ongoing quality control process occurs every five to ten years on average. Further, Accreditation refers to the initial and continuous recognition of a school, postsecondary institution, or program offering as satisfying the requirements specified by a nationally recognized accrediting body for membership in the association. Indeed, Accrediting associations are non-profit membership organizations that oversee the academic and administrative quality of their members, which might be entire universities or groups of institutions.

#### The basic accrediting method consists of the following steps:

1. Receiving receipt of the accreditation application, a preliminary screening performed to confirm eligibility for accreditation and the existence of the required documents.
2. For future contact, qualified schools/institutions assigned a Consideration Number.
3. The Screening Board (SB) reviews all short-listed accreditation applications in accordance with the accreditation standards. NIOS Institutional Accreditation Norms and Procedure
4. Institutions considered eligible by the Screening Board shortlisted for examination by an Inspection Team formed by the NI's relevant body.

#### Important steps to follow:

1. After examining the institution and making suggestions, the Inspection Team presents the report.
2. The Inspection Report's suggestions are reviewed by a committee at NIOS, and if they are deemed appropriate, the committee authorizes and provides temporary accreditation to the applicant institution.
3. Following accreditation, the institution is assigned a unique code number that is used for all contact with NIOS and is sent to the institution/school.
4. If accreditation is granted, the Institution must sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NIOS. The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the criteria for the university and the NIOS to work together as an Accredited Institution. These are not legal obligations, but rather duties on the part of the Accredited Institution of NIOS to carry out the NIOS mission's tasks and activities.
5. If accreditation is granted, the institution must also supply signatories who will jointly run a bank account that the institution must create in order to conduct all financial transactions on behalf of NIOS.

#### Fees:

* The fees charged will be determined by the following factors: • The number of students enrolled full-time at the school.
* The number of days the inspection will take.
* Whether the college is seeking re-accreditation or is submitting its initial application to ASIC.
* Whether or if the institution has already received accreditation from another organization.

## ****List of Accreditations in India with Establishing Year****

This list includes detailed information on all of India's statutory accreditation bodies. Higher education institutions in India are accredited by the organizations in this list. Government approval is required for all businesses, including colleges and universities. The purpose of these government agencies and other autonomous bodies is to authorize various universities and institutes. The advantage of accreditation through these organizations is that it allows students to learn about a school's profile and status. The following are some of the bodies in charge of certifying institutes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Accreditation** | **Establishing Year** |
| NBA | 1994 |
| AICTE | 1945 |
| PCI | 1948 |
| DCI | 1949 |
| NAAC | 1994 |
| MHRD | 1985 |
| NABH | 2006 |
| AMBA | 1967 |
| JCI | 1994 |
| AACSB | 1916 |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### 1.    ****The National Board of Accreditation (NBA)****

Accordingly, the NBA founded by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in 1994 and has been operating independently since 2010. It  approved to participate fully in the Washington Agreement in 2014. The National Accreditation Council (NBA) and the National Evaluation and Accreditation Council are one of the two main organizations responsible for the accreditation of higher education institutions in India (NAAC). NAAC recognizes ordinary schools and colleges, while the NBA recognizes professional courses such as engineering and management.

The NBA accredits programs rather than institutes. Diplomas, undergraduate and postgraduate programs are examples of these. Accredited fields include engineering and technology, management, pharmacy, architecture, applied arts and crafts, computer applications, and hospitality and tourist management. While accreditation is voluntary, the AICTE declared in 2017 that it will not provide licenses to schools that do not accredit at least 50% of their programs.

#### ****Objectives of NBA Accreditation****

The NBA's primary goals are as follows:

* NBAs Evaluate and accredit technical education programs.
* Further, develop standards and criteria for assessment and accreditation in accordance with the parameters established by the competent statutory regulatory authority for standard coordination, determination, and regulation in the relevant sector of technical education;
* Furthermore, encourage excellence through a benchmarking process that is useful in assessing whether or not an institution is capable of achieving its purpose and broad-based goals, as well as in understanding the outcomes assessment process's conclusions;
* To create a quality-conscious technical education system in which excellence, relevance to market requirements well as engagement by all stakeholders are primary and important determinants.
* Further, to establish a technical education system as a human resource facilitator that will align with the national goals of competence-based growth, economic contribution via competitiveness, and compatibility with social development.
* To establish quality criteria for global and national human capital stockpiles in all disciplines of technical education.
* To perform self-assessment evaluations of technical institutions and/or programs offered by them using the rules, norms, and criteria set by it;
* Besides, contributes to the body of knowledge in the areas of quality parameters, assessment, and evaluation

### 2.    ****The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)****

The All India Technical Education Council is an organization that promotes technical education in India. It is part of the Higher Education Department (MHRD) of the Ministry of Human Resources Development. AICTE was established in November 1945 as a government organization to promote and research technical education in India. In addition, it also ensures quality through certification and sets rules and standards. It also provides funding for priority sectors to coordinate the management of technical education across the country. In addition, it also provides technical education programs such as training and research in the fields of engineering, urban planning, applied arts and trade, architecture, pharmacy, management, hotel management, and hotel technology.

#### Importance of AICTE accreditation:

Further, AICTE certification is required for technical schools to deliver courses that fall under the purview of AICTE's ten statutory organizations. For example, in India (save for renowned institutions of technology such as IITs and NITs), All government and private engineering colleges accredited universities, and accredited private universities require AICTE certification. The degree given by these colleges is only legitimate if they are AICTE accredited. As a result, before applying for admission, students should look into the college's AICTE certification.

Besides, there are no special advantages to AICTE accreditation because AICTE clearance required for schools to deliver engineering, postgraduate management degrees, and courses that fall under the purview of AICTE's ten statutory organizations. These colleges cannot conduct these courses without AICTE permission. When applying for admission, students should look at the college's AICTE accreditation.

#### Objectives of AICTE Accreditations:

The following are some of the AICTE's primary tasks and responsibilities:

* AICTE grants approval for existing institutions to expand, new courses to be introduced, and authorization to be renewed after a pause in the previous academic year.
* The AICTE approves the establishment of new technical colleges in India that offer technical education courses at the diploma, degree, post-graduate diploma, and post-graduate diploma levels.
* Further, AICTE is also responsible for granting clearance for a technical institute's change of site or location.
* Furthermore, AICTE gives permission to colleges that seek to transition from women's to co-ed status and vice versa.
* In established technical colleges, the AICTE approves an increase in intake/addition of new courses in the first/regular shift.
* AICTE oversees engineering and management education in India as a whole.

Colleges that want to offer technical courses, PG management courses, or any other courses that fall within the jurisdiction of the AICTE's ten statutory organizations must apply for permission from the AICTE. Prior to seeking AICTE clearance, institutions must have the necessary facilities, labs, and teachers in place to offer the courses. A team from the AICTE will visit the campus and evaluate the facilities before approving the courses.

### ****3.    Pharmacy Council Of India (PCI)****

Hence, Section 3 of the Pharmacy Act of 1948 established the Pharmacy Council of India, generally called the Central Committee. At the graduate level, PCI regulates pharmaceutical education and practice in India. The Board of Directors establishes the minimum educational requirements for pharmacists. The Board recommends:

* The nature and duration of the practical training must be completed prior to taking the exam.
* Equipment and facilities provided for students enrolled in the course of study.
* Exam subjects and standards to be met.
* Exam participants Other conditions.

#### ****Objectives of PCI:****

**PCI's main goals are as follows:**

* In India, there is a pharmacy education regulation that must be followed in order to register as a pharmacist (under Pharma Act)
* • The pharmacy profession and practice are controlled in India.

#### **Duties and Functions of PCI:**

PCI's main responsibilities and functions are as follows:

* In India, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) sets the minimal criteria for becoming a pharmacist.
* PCI establishes educational standards and requirements for institutions seeking PCI approval to provide pharma education.
* Further, PCI guarantees that pharmacy courses in India  taught to the same high standards.
* Furthermore, the Pharmacy Council of India conducts inspections of pharmacy institutes seeking approval under the Pharmacy Act.
* The approval of courses and examinations for pharmacists in India is a significant duty of PCI. Academic institutes that offer pharmacy education also approved by PCI.
* If institutes do not follow the rules, PCI will revoke their approval or recognition.
* All colleges and institutions in India that provide pharmacology studies must adhere to PCI's rules and regulations.

### 4.    ****The Dental Council of India (DCI)****

The Dental Council of India is a statutory body established under the Parliamentary Act "Dentists Act 1948" and is responsible for the management of dental education and practice in India. In addition, funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India through GrantinAid. The Dental Council of India's General Body, which includes representatives from several state governments, universities, dental colleges, and the central government, among others.

The Medical Council of India (MCI) is responsible for overseeing medical education in India, while the Dental Council of India (DCI) is responsible for overseeing dentistry and dental professional education. In addition, DCI is composed of six groups: private dentists, MCI, dental institutions, universities, state governments, and the American Dental Association.

#### ****Objectives of DCI:****

The Dental Council of India has been tasked with achieving the following goals:

* Maintaining a consistent dental education standard at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
* It calls for inspections and visits to dental colleges in order to provide authorization to open new dental colleges, expand the number of seats available, and begin new postgraduate programs.
* Develop standard courses for the education of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental technicians, as well as the requirements for such education.
* Further, establishes the minimum examination standards and other conditions that must be met for legally recognized qualifications.
* Oversight of all dental institutions to verify that they adhere to the established standards.

#### **Functions of DCI:**

* The Executive Committee is the governing body of the organization and is responsible for all procedures, finances and day-to-day operations, and matters of the board of directors.
* The Dental Council of India also given the task of granting accreditation to dental degrees conferred by various universities as well as maintaining consistent standards.
* The Council inspects various dental institutions as part of its powers and responsibilities and brings any inadequacies to the attention of the appropriate authorities for corrective action.
* Before a Dental College or a Postgraduate Dental Department established, it must first meet some basic standards in terms of personnel, equipment, and facilities.

Further, to provide dentistry courses at various levels, all dental institutions across the country must receive DCI certification. After an inspection, the DCI will authorize the admission of dental students. Besides, DCI also inspects dental colleges on a regular basis to see if they are following DCI's regulations. In India, passing the NEET-UG exam i required to enroll in a BDS program.

### ****5.    The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)****

Accordingly, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) assesses and certifies higher education institutions (HEI), such as colleges, universities, and other recognized institutions, to determine the "quality status" of the institution. NAAC assesses school performance in terms of educational process and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching and learning process, teachers, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organization, governance, financial status, and student services based on quality standards.

#### Objectives of NAAC:

* NAAC Accreditation is a system for evaluating and accrediting higher education institutions, units, and specialized academic programs and projects on a regular basis.
* Stimulate the academic environment to increase the quality of teaching, learning, and research in higher education institutions.
* To encourage self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy, and innovation in higher education.
* Conducting research, consultancy, and training programs relating to quality.
* Collaborate with diverse stakeholders in higher education to assess, promote, and sustain excellence.

### 6.    ****Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)****

It was established in 1985 with the goal of creating and guaranteeing the efficient implementation of the National Policy on Education. It focuses on disadvantaged groups such as the poor, women, and minorities, as well as improving the country's educational institutions. In addition to scholarships and subsidized loans, the MHRD provides financial assistance to eligible students from underserved communities. It now collaborates on education in India with UNESCO, international governments, and institutions.

The departments of MHRD:

* Education.
* Culture
* Arts
* Youth Affairs and Sports
* Women’s education

#### ****Objectives of MHRD****:

* Planning
* Educational Reforms
* Organization
* Direction
* Control
* Pilot Projects
* Clearing-house Role
* Liaison with UNESCO
* Opening Central Institutes

### 7.    ****National Accreditation Body for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH)****

NABH (National Accreditation Body for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers) is a committee of the Quality Council of India, which aims to design and operate certification schemes for healthcare organizations. The board set up to meet the demands of consumers and to set standards for the health industry's growth. While all stakeholders, including business, consumers, and government, support the board, it operates with complete functional autonomy.

#### Objectives of NABH:

* To be the leading national healthcare accreditation and quality improvement organization, operating in accordance with international standards.
* NABH Accreditation, through a process of self and external review, run accreditation and related programs in partnership with stakeholders, concentrating on patient safety and healthcare quality based on national/international standards.
* Credibility: Provide trustworthy, value-added services.
* Responsiveness: Willingness to listen and improve service on a constant basis.
* Transparency refers to the openness with which the company communicates with its stakeholders and the flexibility with which they may access information.
* Innovation: Change, constant learning, and new ideas are all used to improve the services offered.

### 8.    ****Associations of MBAs (AMBA)****

The Association of MBAs (AMBA) worldwide recognized credential that was founded in 1967. Besides, AMBA is the international standard for all MBA, DBA, and master's degrees, and it recognizes courses from the top 2% of business schools in over 75 countries and regions. Further, AMBA Accreditation has been around for more than a century. The Association of MBAs (AMBA) strives to maintain the best level of business education. Among MBA students and graduates, AMBA accreditation considered the gold standard. AMBA certification ensures students receive the best business education possible in a congested education market.

#### Objectives of AMBA:

* The measures, such as nationality, gender, or academic achievement, should be clearly defined in the curriculum.
* It is preferable to replace the large list of knowing outcomes with a longer number of graduate characteristics.
* Unambiguous support for curricular innovation in both design and implementation is seen as a plus.
* Schools can provide accreditation for online programs to remove the restrictions for synchronous wisdom to be face-to-face.

### ****9.    Joint Commission International (JCI)****

Joint Commission International (JCI), the Joint Commission's international branch, has worked with health institutions, ministries of health, and international organizations in 80 countries since 1994. JCI Accreditation strives to promote patient care safety through accreditation and certification services. JCI is a well-known international commission for healthcare quality and patient safety. Highly trained doctors who advocate for patient safety audited by JCI Accreditation. Infection control, drug safety, patient care and treatment, patient evaluation and facility safety, health care quality improvement, and patient safety are among their major areas of focus.

#### ACCREDITATION OBJECTIVES OF JCI:

* To create a safe atmosphere for carers and caretakers to work in.
* To establish quantifiable quality and patient safety criteria
* Using a dependable approach, demonstrate long-term gains.
* To guarantee that accredited hospitals' performance and quality recognized and accepted by the public; to increase patient satisfaction
* Boosting productivity
* Cost-cutting through standardized care

### 10. ****Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)****

AACSB created in 1916 and developed its initial criteria for business administration degree programs in 1919. Further, to accommodate the unique demands of the accounting profession, AACSB Accreditation developed new criteria for undergraduate and graduate accounting degree programs in 1980. The AACSB has two sets of certification standards: business and accounting. The standards have evolved throughout time in order to improve relevancy, preserve currency, and boost value.

#### Objectives of ASSCB:

* AACSB will carefully develop and monitor our curriculum to ensure that business students receive an education that is current, relevant, and continually improving, in line with our objective.
* Further, Recruiting academics from the world's best intellectual minds. They continue to improve their teaching abilities, contribute to the field of management knowledge and education and have a good influence on our students, school, and community.
* Our facilities, as well as the learning materials housed inside them, intended to meet the goals of our courses and programs. We assess them on a regular basis to ensure that they are accessible, up-to-date, and well-used.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Accreditations

### What does University Accreditation mean?

Accordingly, Accreditation is a verification process for evaluating colleges, universities, and other higher education institutions. The accreditation standards developed by a peer review team composed of scholars from various recognized schools and institutions. The board of directors assists in reviewing every potential new school accreditation application, as well as refurbishing existing accredited schools and institutions. However, choosing a reputable institution is an important part of a successful career. Employers and recruiters are more inclined to recognize degrees obtained by universities that have passed the accreditation process.

The company wants to know that you are well-educated and that when you join, you will be able to contribute to their team. Indeed, Accreditation allows companies to distinguish people who have earned a degree from an accredited university from others who do not have financial aid. If students wish to pursue a graduate or doctoral degree, students who complete the certification process are more likely to transfer credits to other respected schools.

Accreditation is a term that refers to the initial and ongoing approvals provided by schools, institutions of higher education or courses to meet the standards set by nationally recognized accrediting associations for members. The certification organization is a non-profit organization that is in charge of supervising the academic and administrative quality of its members, who can be the whole organization or a part of it.

### Which college accreditation is best?

It is a bit more complicated than it seems at first. Indeed, regional certification is the most popular type of certification because it is the most widely recognized and recognized certification type and is considered the gold standard for certification. Besides, in terms of credit transfer and admissions, many colleges and universities only look at regional accreditation.

In addition to regional certification, an organization can also apply for certification from one of the above-mentioned national agencies. Further, assuming that the institution has only one form of certification, I will rate its certification status as follows:

* Accreditation in the Regions (Undergraduate or Graduate)
* ABHE (Undergraduate) or ATS (Postgraduate) (Graduate)
* DETC is an acronym for "Department of (Undergraduate or Graduate)
* TRACS is a term that refers to a (Undergraduate or Graduate)

### What happens if a University or College not accredited?

When an institution chooses not to be recognized, it gains some autonomy and freedom from external supervision or "laws." This means that it can provide students with unconventional alternatives that not available in licensed institutions, enabling them to pursue interests that they may not be able to pursue.

##### Non-accredited institutions also have certain disadvantages.

* It is difficult to transfer credits to a recognized university.
* It is more difficult to get into graduate or professional school.
* If you have a degree from a non-accredited institution, your employer may hesitate to hire you.
* Unrecognized agencies are generally not eligible for federal or state financial assistance. They may also be unable to apply for scholarships or tuition assistance from companies, community groups, and other sources. The quality of education provided by may be poor.
* Accreditation achieves the important goal of ensuring quality, which is lacking in non-accredited schools.
* Some students invest time and money to obtain a degree from a non-accredited university, only to find that they cannot continue their studies, transfer to another university, or obtain the position they want. Before making a decision, make sure you understand the situation so you don't rule out other options for your future.

### What accreditation should a university have?

There are 60 higher education accreditation institutions. These organizations approved by the Ministry of Education mainly have the following three forms of certification:

* Accordingly, State-owned or non-profit schools with an academic focus are often the focus of regional accrediting agencies. Regional accreditation is the "gold standard" in terms of the supervision of higher education. Accreditation generally extends to online degree programs offered by these schools.
* Niche schools, such as religious or monodisciplinary universities, are generally within the scope of national accreditation. on the other hand, the national accreditation agency "generally focuses on vocational and business schools," which are generally for-profit institutions. Therefore, credits earned at a nationally recognized institution cannot be transferred to a regionally recognized institution.
* As the name suggests, program certification designated for professional degree programs in engineering, accounting, education, nursing, and other regulated majors. According to Hoy, many companies value these certifications even if they not required.

### How do you know if a university is legit?

Ways to know the university is legit:

* Verify degree certification online-The easiest way to ensure that any distance learning school or course you choose is properly certified is to verify its certification. This indicates that the school or course has been confirmed or verified by peers in the education field.
* Avoid universities that use the name of a known institution as a degree-If the name of the school sounds very similar to a famous, well-known university, but is slightly different, you may be misled.
* Beware of admission requirements that seem too good to be true if there are only a few admission criteria or extremely basic prerequisites, such as a resume and cover letter, you should be suspicious
* Don't pay tuition upfront: Whether the university asks you for a large sum of money before you know if you are accepted, probably not a legitimate online course.
* Beware of Titles That Seem Too Easy to Obtain - If earning a title seems too easy, you should reconsider. Although online degrees are more flexible than college degrees, they still require the same level of effort and homework.

##### Important to know:

* Check out the following materials provided by the online university: An accredited online institution offers resources such as student support services and libraries on its website.
* View University Contact Information: When looking for more information, visit the institution's website. However, If you can't find information about your university or business address, it may be a scam.
* Check out the following Google reviews from recent graduates: Hearing what other students are saying about the institution and the credibility of the program is a great way to really understand how it works. Many students provide assessments on college pages and educational websites, such as our own learning portal.

### How do you know if a degree is accredited?

Experts say accreditation is a process carried out by an independent agency to confirm that specific schools and degree programs, whether on campus, online or in a blended mode, meet specific quality standards and an important sign of legitimacy. Although voluntary, certification offers many benefits, and you can often test the program to other schools, institutions, and employers.

##### Importance of accredited degree:

* Online, you can find and view the total school certification: Institutional certification refers to the entire college or university, while professional certification refers to individual courses or schools that focus on a specific field.
* If necessary, check regional and national accreditations: If regional or national accreditation is important to your professional or educational ambitions, potential students studying accreditation of a university institution online can additionally check whether the school has regional or national accreditation.
* Look at the certification history of online schools: Even good schools do things that jeopardize their certification or happen, but this is not common.
* Check if your field also requires program certification - Employers, or other institutions, if students are seeking higher-level degrees, may prefer an online degree program with program or professional certification, depending on the field. For example, the University Committee on Nursing Education has approved all of UT-Tyler's undergraduate and graduate nursing courses, including courses offered online.
* Find and Confirm Program Accreditation Agency - Prospective students can seek accreditation from experts on the website for potential online degree programs. If necessary, they must confirm that the certification body recognized by the department or council.

### How important is degree accreditation?

In the job market, having a degree has several advantages. Workers with an associate's degree earn 25% more than workers with only a high school diploma, while workers with a bachelor's degree earn more than 70%. Many professions require a degree in order to be recruited or promoted to a specific level. Further, the benefits of higher education expected to increase in the coming years.

It cannot, however, be any degree. Further, if you want to achieve the job success you deserve, you must obtain an approved degree. Besides, outside agencies assess a school's programs to ensure that they fulfill relevant academic requirements. Further, employers can't tell if your credential is from a reputable university or a diploma mill—a firm that gives degrees in return for money and little academic work—if you don't have accreditation. Because academic organizations are wary of degrees from non-accredited colleges, transferring credits from a non-accredited to an approved university can be challenging.

Further, Obtaining a degree from an accredited school is invaluable. People from unaccredited schools or programs are worthless. This is why it's so important to check your school's certification status and make sure it meets your needs and expectations before spending time and money.