

College and Universities Accreditation

Is Your College or University Accredited ?

A college or university accreditation status is one of the most important factors for selecting that school. Accreditation means that an outside agency has verified its academic programs for quality, rigorousness, and adherence to the educational standards set by that agency. The accrediting agencies creates a set criteria for accreditation, and the Department of Education then gives these agencies the authority to determine whether colleges and universities meet their criteria. While the federal government has its own set criteria for choosing accrediting agencies that they will use, the government does not accredit any individual institutions.

College credits from an unaccredited school will not transfer to another institution. For example, if you earn a two-year degree at an unaccredited school and transfer to an accredited four-year school to earn a bachelor's, you may have to start over completely if the four-year school rejects the credits previously earned. Accreditation does not guarantee that an institution will accept transfer credits, but it certainly improves your chances of getting them accepted.

Why accreditation is important?

One of the most popular forms of accreditation in the US is the Regional Accreditation. If you are studying at an accredited institution and, you decide to move to another state or simply change college within your state, your credits from your previous college could be accepted in your new school, if both institutions are accredited. You will still have to be admitted into the new school by completing an application for admission and all other requirement of their acceptance process, but the classes that you took at your old school should be reviewed for college credits. Another important fact about accreditation is that accredited schools **can participate in federal and financial aid programs and employer tuition assistance.**

Both programs assist students and families who may have a hard time paying for their education.

Accreditation is not only offered to schools, but also to internships, residencies, programs, and online colleges.

How to determine if your school is accredited?

You can find out if your school is accredited by visiting the [Department of Education website](#), they offer a full list of accredited schools and their accredited programs, or by visiting the Council for Higher Education Accreditation webpage: <https://www.chea.org/>. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation selects which agencies can be consider “accreditation agencies” and gives them permission to accredit institutions.

Adapted from: (<https://www.collegeraptor.com/find-colleges/articles/questions-answers/accredited-college-accredited-important/>).