

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

FACT SHEET #3

TWELVE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT EXTERNAL QUALITY REVIEW

September 2001

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is interested in assisting individuals who wish to pursue higher education in the United States. To this end we have prepared a series of questions that students and others may find useful to ask about the external quality review of a course, institution or program in which they might enroll.

While CHEA considers external quality review to be an important and constructive process for higher education institutions, external quality review may be only one among many considerations relevant to an individual's choice of a course of study, program, or institution. CHEA does not endorse any specific course of study, program or institution, but encourages careful scrutiny of materials, commitments and claims of all providers of higher education.

If you are considering enrolling in a course of study or program at a higher education institution, you may find it useful to inquire about the external quality review of the course, program, or institution.

1. Is the course, program or institution accredited?
2. What are the standards of quality? Is there an available summary of the last review?
3. If the course, program, or institution is not accredited, is it certified for quality by another organization?
4. What external quality review is performed by this other organization and what are the standards? Is there a summary of the last review?
5. How can the organization that accredits or provides other types of external quality reviews be contacted?

You may address these and similar questions to:

- The institution or provider under consideration for enrollment
- Certifying organization, if necessary

If you are considering enrolling in an initial course of study or program at one institution and may want to enroll in a further course of study or program at another higher education institution in the future, you may find it useful to inquire about transferability of credits and courses.

6. Will other institutions accept the credits and courses earned?
7. Will other institutions count the credits and courses toward a degree?
8. Will graduate schools accept the credits and courses for admission?
9. Who decides toward what the credits or courses count? How can they be contacted?

You may address these and similar questions to:

- The institution or provider under consideration for enrollment
- The institution or provider under consideration for transfer

If you intend to use a course of study or program for employment purposes or would like your employer to provide tuition assistance, you may find it useful to inquire about acceptance of credits and courses by employers.

10. Will employers accept the credits and courses earned?
11. Will employers acknowledge the credits and courses for upgrading, retraining and additional compensation?
12. Who should be contacted to learn what courses and credits an employer may accept?

You may address these and similar questions to:

- The employer or likely future employer

For additional information concerning external quality review, you can contact or consult::

Print Sources:

Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education

Edited by Louanne W. Rozek
Published by the American Council on Education
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One Dupont Circle, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 939-9300
Fax: (202) 833-4760
E-mail: pubs@ace.nche.edu
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Higher Education Directory

Published by Higher Education Publications, Inc.
Edited by Mary Pat Rodenhouse
6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648
Falls Church, VA 22042
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E-mail: info@hepinc.com
Internet: www.hepinc.com

The National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs

American Council on Education
Edited by Jo Ann Robinson & Jacqueline E. Taylor
ACE/CREDIT
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20036
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E-mail: credit@ace.nche.edu
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Electronic Sources:

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Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

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Chicago, IL 60613-2987
Phone: (773) 525-2160
Fax: (773) 525-2162
E-mail: aspacd@aol.com
Internet: www.aspa-usa.org

United States Department of Education (USDE)

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity
Office of Postsecondary Education
United States Department of Education
1900 K Street, NW
Room 7107
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 219-7009
Fax: (202) 219-7008
Internet: www.ed.gov/offices/ope/student/file01.html

Accreditation and State Liaison
Office of Postsecondary Education
United States Department of Education
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Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 219-7011
Fax: (202) 219-7005
Internet: www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/accreditation

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is a nationally based, private, nonprofit organization that coordinates national, regional and specialized accreditation and represents 3,000 degree-granting accredited institutions and 59 accrediting organizations (2000-2001). CHEA's primary responsibilities are advocacy for self-regulation of higher education through voluntary accreditation, scrutiny ("recognition") of accrediting organizations and articulation and presentation of key accreditation issues and challenges to higher education, government and the public.

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