

TWELVE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT EXTERNAL QUALITY REVIEW

Twelve Important Questions About External Quality Review

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) can assist individuals who wish to pursue higher education in the United States. To this end, we have prepared a series of questions that students and their families may find useful to ask when exploring higher education opportunities, specifically, the external quality review of an 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 considerations relevant to an individual's choice of a course of study, program, or institution. CHEA does not endorse any specific program or institution, but encourages careful scrutiny of materials, commitments and claims of all higher education institutions.

If you are considering enrolling in a program or a higher education institution, inquire about the external quality review of the institution, program or course.

1. Is the institution, or program accredited and by what accreditor?
2. What are the standards of quality? Is there an available summary of the last most recent review?
3. If the institution, or program is not accredited, is it certified for quality by another organization?
4. What external quality review is performed by the other organization, and what are its standards of quality? Is there a summary of the most recent 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 under consideration for enrollment, or the certifying organization, if necessary.

If you are considering enrolling in an initial program at one institution and may want to enroll in another program at a different higher education institution, it would be helpful to inquire about possible 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 under consideration for enrollment, and/or the institution under consideration for transfer.

If you intend to use a 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's human resources department. For additional information concerning external quality review, please contact:

Informational Sources:

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

One Dupont Circle, N.W., #510
Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: 202-955-6126
www.chea.org

Higher Education Directory

6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648 Falls Church, VA 22042
Phone: 703-532-2300
www.hepinc.com/

The National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs American Council on Education

One Dupont Circle, NW, #250 Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: 202-939-9300
www.acenet.edu/National-Guide/Pages/default.aspx

Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

3023 North Clark Street, #317
Chicago, Ill. 60657
Phone: 773-857-7900
www.aspa-usa.org

United States Department of Education (USDE),
National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)
Office of Postsecondary Education United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202
Phone: 202-453-7577
<https://sites.ed.gov/naciqi/authority/>

Accreditation and State Liaison Office of Postsecondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202
Phone: 202-219-7011
www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html

CHEA Mission:

Council for Higher Education Accreditation serves its members, students and society through advocacy for the value and independence of accreditation, recognition of accrediting organizations and commitment to quality in higher education.

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