

## Accreditation Overview

### ***What is accreditation and why is it important?***

“The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accreditation in the United States involves non-governmental entities as well as governmental agencies.

Accrediting agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met. Institutions and/or programs that request an agency's evaluation and that meet an agency's criteria are then "accredited" by that agency.” (U.S. Department of Education. [http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation\\_pg2.html#U.S.](http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg2.html#U.S.) , 6 June 2014)

In order for a service member to receive military tuition assistance he/she must attend a school accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and that has signed the Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding ([www.dodmou.com](http://www.dodmou.com))

### **TYPES AND NUMBERS OF RECOGNIZED ACCREDITORS**

#### **Institutional**

- *Regional*: Regional accreditors operate in six specific clusters of states (regions) in the United States, and review entire institutions, 96.8 percent or more of which are both degree-granting and nonprofit. There are 3,025 regionally accredited institutions.
- *National Faith-Related*: National faith-related accreditors operate nationally and review religiously-affiliated or doctrinally-based institutions, most of which are degree-granting and non-profit. There are 449 faith-related accredited institutions.
- *National Career-Related*: National career-related accreditors operate throughout the country and review entire institutions, 28.9 percent of which are degree-granting and 71.0 percent are non-degree-granting; 10.3 percent are non-profit and 89.6 percent are for-profit. There are 3,532 private career institutions. Many are single-purpose institutions focusing on, e.g., education in business and information technology.
- *Programmatic*: Programmatic accreditors operate throughout the country and review programs and some single-purpose institutions. There are 19,453 accredited programs. (Fact Sheet #1. [http://www.chea.org/pdf/fact\\_sheet\\_1\\_profile.pdf](http://www.chea.org/pdf/fact_sheet_1_profile.pdf), 5 June 2014).

Online accreditation resources: Profile of accreditation:

[http://www.chea.org/pdf/fact\\_sheet\\_1\\_profile.pdf](http://www.chea.org/pdf/fact_sheet_1_profile.pdf)

How do accrediting organizations operate to assure quality?

[http://www.chea.org/pdf/fact\\_sheet\\_5\\_operation.pdf](http://www.chea.org/pdf/fact_sheet_5_operation.pdf)

List of recognized accrediting organizations:

[http://www.chea.org/pdf/CHEA\\_USDE\\_AllAccred.pdf](http://www.chea.org/pdf/CHEA_USDE_AllAccred.pdf)

The Fundamentals Of Accreditation / What Do You Need To Know?

[http://www.chea.org/pdf/fund\\_accred\\_20ques\\_02.pdf](http://www.chea.org/pdf/fund_accred_20ques_02.pdf)