

## Accreditation Overview

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

“The goal of accreditation is to ensure that institutions of higher education meet acceptable levels of quality. [Accreditation in the United States](#) involves non-governmental entities as well as federal and state government agencies...

Accreditors, 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 accreditor's evaluation and that meet an accreditor's criteria are then "accredited".” (U.S. Department of Education.

<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation.html#Overview> , 21 January 2018)

In order for service members to receive military tuition assistance they 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](#)

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

### **Types of Accreditors**

#### **Institutional**

- *Regional*: Regional accreditors operate in six specific clusters of states (regions) in the United States and review entire institutions, 100 percent of which are degree-granting. There are 3,049 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 503 faith-related accredited institutions.
- *National Career-Related*: National career-related accreditors operate throughout the country and review entire institutions, 33 percent of which are degree-granting and 67 percent are non-degree-granting; 10.7 percent are non-profit and 83.1 percent are for-profit. There are 4,344 career institutions (for-profit and non-profit private and public). 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 42,686 accredited programs.

(<http://www.chea.org/userfiles/uploads/FS1-profiles-of-accreditation.pdf> , 22 January 2018)

### **Useful Links**

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