



ACCREDITATION IN US HIGHER EDUCATION

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TAICEP 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- What is accreditation?
- History of accreditation in the US
- Types of accrediting bodies
- Why is it important?
- Accreditation process
- Accreditation issues

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality (U.S. Department of Education)

- Measure of institutional quality
- Voluntary
- Comprehensive
- Collaborative
- Periodic

HISTORY OF ACCREDITATION IN THE U.S.

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1636: Harvard College founded

1885-1895: first 4 accrediting bodies established

- Mechanism to distinguish institutions with high academic standards
- Voluntary
- No federal government role

1905: Carnegie Foundation for Higher Education list of recognized colleges

1913-1924: 2 more accrediting bodies established

1925: American Library Association list of accredited schools

1926 – 1934: 2 additional accrediting bodies established

1944: GI Bill

- Federal funds for veterans to attend college
- State-created approved college lists
- Concerned low quality colleges
- Federal government: create own list or rely on state lists?

HISTORY OF ACCREDITATION IN THE U.S.

1952: Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act

- Federal government chooses non-governmental accrediting bodies
- Recognition process established
- Federally-recognized list of accrediting bodies and associations

1965: Higher Education Act

- Title IV: federal financial aid for college students
- Institutions accredited by recognized accrediting bodies only

1965 – 1992

- Concern about accreditation fraud, especially in proprietary schools
- Lack of oversight by accrediting bodies

HISTORY OF ACCREDITATION IN THE U.S.

1992: Higher Education Reauthorization Act

- Section 496
 - Standards and criteria set for recognition of accrediting bodies
 - Types of accrediting standards
- National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity/NACIQI
 - Reviews accreditors every 5 years
 - Members appointed by Congress and Secretary of Education
 - Final approval by Secretary of Education

1998: Higher Education Reauthorization Act

- Accreditation of distance education
- Ensure federal funds only support quality programs

HISTORY OF ACCREDITATION IN THE U.S.

2008: Higher Education Opportunity Act

- Review of distance education programs
- Transparent transfer credit policies
- Teach-out plans

2019: new Department of Education regulations

- Broadens definition of geographic area of regional accrediting bodies

2020: Western Association of Schools and Colleges

- First to begin accreditation reviews outside of geographic region

ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNITION

ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNITION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- *“The Secretary (of Education) recognizes accrediting agencies to ensure that these agencies are, for the purposes of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), or for other Federal purposes, reliable authorities regarding the quality of education or training offered by the institutions or programs they accredit.”* CFR Title 34 § 602.1
- Does not accredit educational institutions and/or programs
- Required to publish list of nationally-recognized accrediting agencies
- Establishes standards for accreditation/accrediting agencies
 - Must be voluntary
 - Principal purpose: accreditation of institutions or programs
 - Administratively and financially separate and independent from any trade or membership organization
 - American Bar Association: Council of the Section on Legal Education
 - American Podiatric Medical Association: Council on Podiatric Medical Education

ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNITION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Criteria for recognition

- Link to Federal (Higher Education Act) programs
- Demonstrate that it conducts accrediting activities
 - Within a State
 - Region or group of States
 - United States
- Demonstrate accrediting experience
 - Institutional accreditor: 1 or more institutions
 - 2 years

4 types of accrediting agencies recognized

- State agency
- Accrediting agency that accredits institutions of higher education
- Accrediting agency accredits higher education program
- Accrediting agency accredits professional education programs

ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNITION

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION/CHEA

- Private, non-governmental organization
- Recognizes institutional and programmatic accrediting agencies
- Established by group of college university presidents
 - Affirm quality of accrediting bodies
- Recognition process
 - \$10,000 free
 - 12-18 months
 - Evidence meets standards:
 1. Academic Quality and Student Achievement
 2. Accountability and Transparency
 3. Accreditation Structure and Organization
 4. Capacity and Compliance for International Accreditation

ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNITION

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION/CHEA

- Recognition process
 1. Initiate recognition
 2. Submit application form and fee
 3. Submit application narrative
 4. Call for 3rd party comment (CHEA)
 5. Public announcement and call for 3rd party comment (organization)
 6. Public presentation to CHEA
 7. Written notice by CHEA
 8. Board of Directors actions
 - Grant initial or continuing recognition
 - Deny initial recognition
 - Withdraw recognition
 - Other actions

ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNITION

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION/CHEA

- Recognition process
 9. Written notice
 10. Public notice
 11. Reconsideration of Board action
- Maximum recognition length: 7 years
 - Interim report submission at midpoint

ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNITION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION VS. CHEA RECOGNITION

ACCREDITOR	CHEA?	USDE?
All regional accrediting organizations	✓	✓
Distance Educational Accrediting Commission	✓	✓
Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training		✓
Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine		✓
Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education	✓	
Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education		✓
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education	✓	✓
Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation		✓
National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences	✓	

Source: <https://www.chea.org/chea-and-usde-recognized-accrediting-organizations>

TYPES OF ACCREDITING BODIES

TYPES OF ACCREDITING BODIES

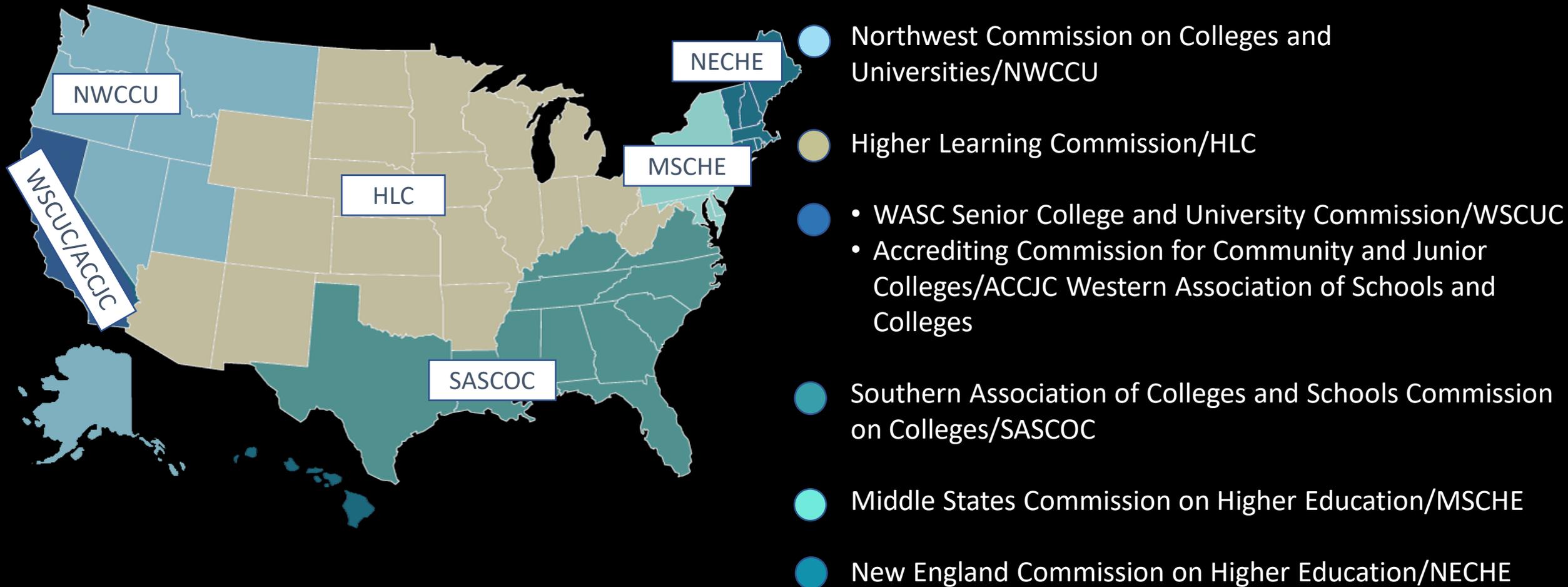
NATIONAL CAREER-RELATED ACCREDITING BODIES

- Distance Education Accrediting Commission

REGIONAL ACCREDITING BODIES

- Granted to institution as a whole
- No guarantee of quality of individual programs
- Currently 7
- General geographic regions
 - 2019: new federal rules issued by Department of Education
- Institutions outside of US

REGIONAL ACCREDITING BODIES



Source: Council on Higher Education Accreditation

TYPES OF ACCREDITING BODIES

PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITING BODIES

- Review individual programs
- Many fields of study
 - Engineering, nursing, teacher education, pharmacy, interior design ...
- May accredit programs outside of the U.S.
 - Aviation Accreditation Board International
 - Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications
 - Commission on Sports Management Accreditation

NATIONAL FAITH-RELATED ACCREDITING BODIES

- Association for Biblical Higher Education
- Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools
- Association of Theological Schools
- Transational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools

**WHY IS ACCREDITATION
IMPORTANT?**

WHY IS ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT?

INSTITUTION

- Federal funding
 - Student loans
 - Research grants

STUDENTS

- Federal financial aid
- Transfer to other institutions
- Professional licensure

ACCREDITATION PROCESS

ACCREDITATION PROCESS

1. Pre-application
2. Application
 - \$100,000 - \$150,000 fee
3. Self-study
4. Site visit
5. Accrediting agency review
 - Site visit report
 - Accreditation requirements met?
6. Reaffirmation to maintain accreditation

ACCREDITATION PROCESS

- Valid for 3 – 10 years
- Regular self-evaluation reports
 - Proof of compliance with accreditation standards
 - Areas of improvement
 - Plan for improvements
 - Student feedback
- Site visits if warranted
- Reaffirmation of accreditation near end of accreditation period

ACCREDITATION ACTIONS

ACCREDITATION ACTIONS

EXAMPLE: HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

Sanctions

1. Notice: at risk of not meeting accreditation criteria
 - 1-2 years
2. Probation: no longer meets one or more accreditation criteria
 - Up to 2 years
 - Other actions if requirements not met

Show-Cause

- Demonstrate why accreditation should not be withdrawn
- 1 year
- May be subject to sanctions or monitoring

<https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/sanctions-show-cause-orders-and-adverse-actions.html#>

ACCREDITATION ACTIONS

EXAMPLE: HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

Adverse Actions

1. Withdrawal or Denial of Accreditation

- Does not meet one or more accreditation criteria
- Institution closure
- Legal authorization to operate/grant degrees terminated
- Accreditation remains until effective date of withdrawal

2. Withdrawal or Denial of Candidacy

- Failure to meet one or more eligibility requirements
- Insufficient evidence to meet accreditation criteria within candidacy period

ACCREDITATION ACTIONS APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2022

ACTION	REGIONAL	FAITH-BASED	CAREER-RELATED	INSTITUTIONAL	PROGRAMMATIC	TOTAL
Grant accreditation	3	4	15	2	239	264
Reaffirm accreditation	124	5	106	1	289	525
Deny accreditation	0	0	2	0	3	5
Withdraw accreditation	0	1	48	0	31	70
Defer accreditation	0	0	21	0	64	85
Notice/warning	15	0	10	0	12	37
Show cause	3	1	17	2	8	31
Probation	4	0	9	0	15	28
Appeals	0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	149	11	219	5	661	1045

Source: Council on Higher Education Accreditation

LOSS OF ACCREDITATION

LOSS OF ACCREDITATION: INSTITUTION/PROGRAM

- Usually due to financial issues
- Low enrollment
- Notification to institution/program by accreditation agency
 - Written timeline for compliance with standards
 - 4 years or 150% of
 - Length of program (if accredited)
 - Length of longest program (if institutionally-accredited)
- Institution/program must provide documentation of compliance within timeframe
 - Accreditation agency may grant a good cause extension
- Failure to come into compliance
 - Accreditation terminated
 - Adverse action may be limited to particular programs or locations

LOSS OF ACCREDITATION: INSTITUTION/PROGRAM

LOSS OF ACCREDITATION

- Affects on students
 - Teach-out plans
 - Transfer to other institutions
 - Record retention
 - Professional licensure

ACCREDITING BODY LOSS OF RECOGNITION

LOSS OF ACCREDITATION: ACCREDITING BODY

EXAMPLE: CASE OF ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS/ACICS

- Failure to comply with federal regulation criteria
- 27 for-profit colleges currently accredited by ACICS
- 18 months to find new accreditor
- Prohibition from enrolling new students
- Effects on accredited institutions/students

Stratford University (Virginia)

- Closed September 20, 2022
- 2000 students
- 2-week closure notice to students
- Transfer credit to other institutions uncertain
- Reneged on 18-month teach-out
 - 800 students affected

LOSS OF ACCREDITATION: ACCREDITING BODY

EXAMPLE: THE ASSOCIATION TO ADVANCED COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS OF BUSINESS/AACSB INTERNATIONAL

- Accredits US and international business schools and programs
- 2002: initial CHEA 10-year recognition; 2 interim reports required
- January 2013: CHEA Board of Directors meeting defers recognition
 - Additional evidence of public procedures to inform accreditation decisions
 - Failure to implement accreditation standards: require accredited programs to provide public information on student achievement
- January 2015: recognition deferral continued
 - Failure to implement accreditation standards: require accredited programs to provide public information on student achievement
- January 2016: recognition deferral continued (same reason as 2015 decision)
- July 2016: CHEA Board of Directors recommend denial of recognition
- September 23, 2016: AACSB withdraws CHEA recognition

CURRENT ACCREDITATION ISSUES

CURRENT ACCREDITATION ISSUES

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN FLORIDA

- Florida Law SB 7044 – July 1, 2022
 - Requires public higher education institutions to seek new accrediting agencies
 - ISSUE: “potentially undermines the voluntary nature of the relationship and the independent roles of the various actors in the triad” – US Department of Education
 - July 19, 2022: Department of Education clarification to regional/institutional accrediting agencies
 - Agencies should conduct independent evaluation: change of accrediting agency voluntary?
 - More difficult to accreditation shop

CURRENT ACCREDITATION ISSUES

PENNSYLVANIA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION MERGER

- 2021: approval of 6 state higher education institutions into 2
- March 10, 2022: Middle States Commission on Higher Education approves

THREE-YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREES

- Pilot project at several US higher education institutions
 - Only in programs that do not have programmatic accreditation
 - At least 90 semester credits
- Most regional accrediting agencies have minimum bachelor's degree credit standards
 - At least 120 semester credits

UNRECOGNIZED ACCREDITING BODIES

UNRECOGNIZED ACCREDITING BODIES

- 200+ based in the US
- Names often similar to recognized accrediting bodies
 - Southern Association of Accredited Colleges and Universities
(Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)
 - Middle States Accrediting Board
(Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools)
 - Distance Learning International Accreditation Association
(Distance Education Accrediting Commission)
- Institutional and programmatic accreditation
 - American Council of Private Colleges and Universities
 - Distance Graduation Accrediting Association
- Always check CHEA and DOEd websites to determine recognition

UNRECOGNIZED ACCREDITING BODIES

AAHE has enjoyed the same, Original United States 501-C3 Status since 1969 For membership / accreditation and online pay, Click here: www.AAHE.Education

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AAHEA REGISTERED AT OSAC



AAHEA is a Registered Constituent of Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), managed by Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State. Our members and affiliates should review the OSAC guidelines.

UNITED NATIONS PROFILE



The American Association for Higher Education and Accreditation enjoys a profile listing under the United Nations NGO Branch Section. Click here to see our listing with UN-ECSC Department.

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AAHEA is Official Certifying Authority for The President's Volunteer Service Awards. You can connect to AAHEA for recognition of your volunteer services.

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UNRECOGNIZED ACCREDITING BODIES

AAHEA NEWS



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The AAHE is governed by a twenty-member board of directors, which is headed by a chair and a chairelect. Board members are chosen by AAHE members by mail ballot each year. The board establishes policy, determines programs, and appoints committees as needed. The day-to-day operations of the AAHE are overseen by a staff of approximately twenty-five individuals under the direction of an appointed president.

EXPLORE AAHEA

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AAHEA FELLOWSHIP AWARD



STAFF & DIRECTORS

MEET SOME OF OUR DIRECTORS

- Dr. Gomez, MD Honorary President (Lifetime)
- Bishop Frank T. Bozeman, Honorary Lifetime, RIP
- **Dr. Stephen R. Barnhart, Chief Consultant (PVSA)
- **Dr. Christopher R. Campbell, VP of Accreditation and Evaluation (PVSA)
- *Dr. James Curtis Jr. (PVSA)
- Rev. John W. Losh II (PVSA)
- Dr. Mohamed G. Kafafy
- Dr. Santarvis Brown (PVSA)
- Dr. Hendrickson, Ed.D
- Prof. Charles Williams
- Prof. D. Jain, Ph.D.
- Prof. Lindgren, Ed.D.
- Melissa Moyer
- Suhail Jarroush

* Denotes Chaplain of Global Word Fellowship / GEAC

**Denotes Bishop / Chaplain of Global Word Fellowship / GEAC

PVSA Denotes US Presidential Lifetime Volunteer Service Award recipient

- Religious Accreditation and Development Team Members
- Dr. Victor D. Rivera-Carrion
- Dr. Jose L. Rivera-Montalvo

STAFF

- Robert Kohley, Office Manager
- Frances Ducharme
- Ms. Kleppinger

RESOURCES

RESOURCES

An Overview of Accreditation in Higher Education in the United States. Congressional Research Service

<https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R43826.pdf>

Accreditation in the United States: How Did We Get to Where We Are? Barbara Brittingham

<https://www.uog.edu/resources/files/faculty-senate/2019-FDD-Reading-Material-1.pdf>

Accreditation in the United States. U.S. Department of Education <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>

Hooked on Accreditation: A Historical Perspective. American Progress

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/hooked-on-accreditation-a-historical-perspective/>

1919-2019: The 100-Year History of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. <https://www.msche.org/about-us/history/>

1998 CHEA Recognition Policy. Council on Higher Education Accreditation. <https://www.chea.org/1998-chea-recognition-policy>

CHEA Database of Institutions and Programs Accredited by Recognized U.S. Accrediting Organizations. <https://www.chea.org/directories>

US Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs: <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>

“Go East (or North), Regional Accreditor”, *Inside Higher Ed*, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/02/27/western-accreditor-will-consider-approving-colleges-outside-its-region>

RESOURCES

“A New Push to Create a 3-Year Degree Option”, *Inside Higher Ed*, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/11/09/colleges-explore-new-three-year-bachelor%E2%80%99s-degree-program>

“MBA accreditation: What it is and why it’s important”, *Bankrate*, <https://www.bankrate.com/loans/student-loans/mba-accreditation/>

“Pennsylvania Board Votes ‘Yes’ on Consolidation”, *Inside Higher Ed*, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/07/15/pennsylvania-system-approves-plan-merge-six-universities>

Middle States Commission on Higher Education Announces Actions from Its March 2022 Meeting: <https://www.msche.org/2022/03/15/middle-states-commission-on-higher-education-announces-actions-from-its-march-2022-meeting/>

CHEA Standards and Procedures for Recognition:

[https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://www.chea.org/sites/default/files/other-content/CHEA Standards and Procedures for Recognition-FINAL.pdf](https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://www.chea.org/sites/default/files/other-content/CHEA%20Standards%20and%20Procedures%20for%20Recognition-FINAL.pdf)

US Government Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Chapter VI Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-VI/part-602?toc=1>

“New Rules on Accreditation and State Authorization”, *Inside Higher Ed*, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/11/01/education-department-issues-new-regulations-accreditation-and-state-authorization>

RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Education 2022 Accreditation Handbook: <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation-handbook.pdf>

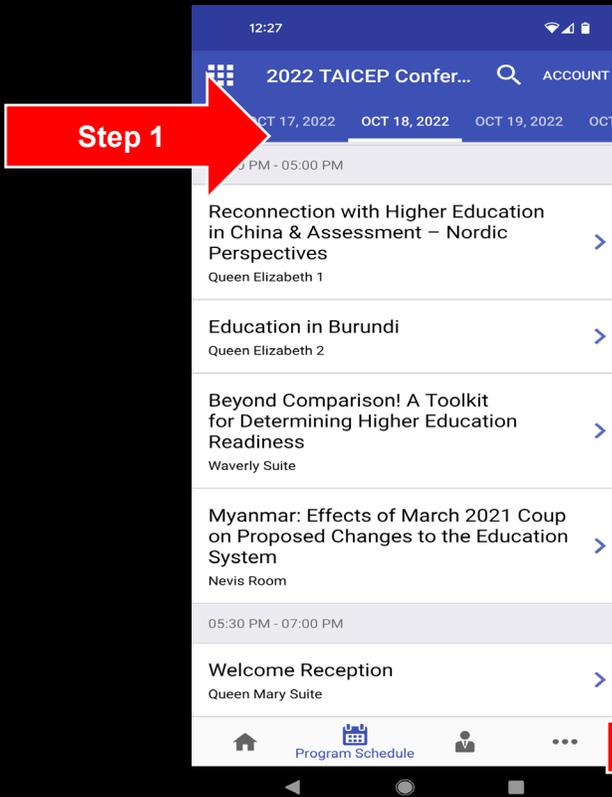
Council of Higher Education Accreditation AACSB Recognition Decision Summary: <https://www.chea.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/AACSB.pdf>

QUESTIONS?

ДЯКУЮ
תודה go raibh maith agat ευχαριστώ
ありがとう dankjewel salammat
terima kasih merci teşekkür ederim
شكرا obrigado děkuji
спасибо grazie thank you takk
ačiū danke gracias
nirringrazzjak gratias tibi धन्यवाद
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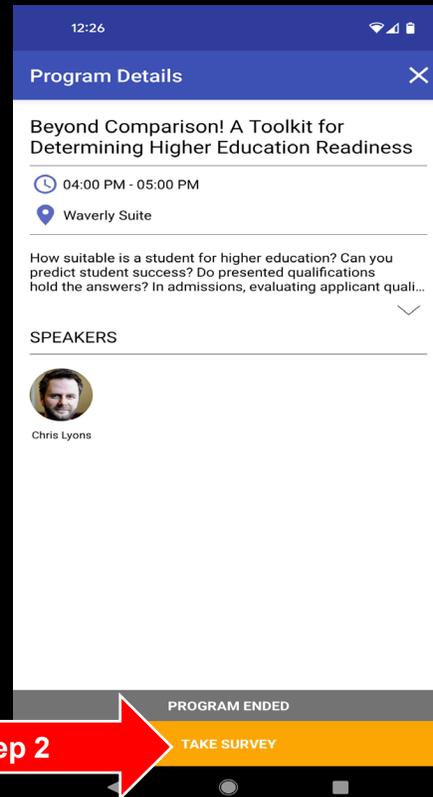
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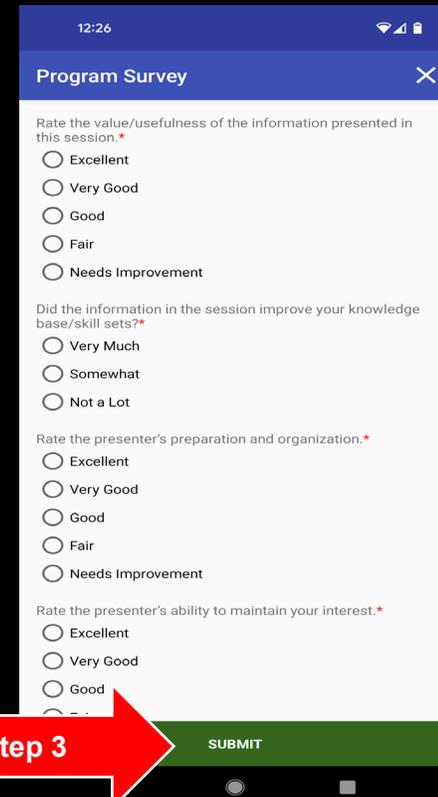
Step 1

Take Survey" Button
Available 10 Minutes
Before Session Ends



Step 2

Submit" (Then...go find
coffee!)



Step 3