

What does it mean to be an accredited institution?

Do my students have everything they need to optimize their learning? Are all of my students being prepared to succeed in college or their career? Is my institution operating at its best? These are just a few areas with which institutions may be deeply engaged on a daily basis. Even if your institution is doing well, there always are areas that need focus.

The continuous improvement processes that your institution engages in as an accredited education provider include an in-depth analysis of purpose and direction, governance and leadership, teaching and learning, resources and support systems, and system effectiveness. From classroom observations and stakeholder surveys to diagnostic reviews of student performance, everyone from students to parents is involved in the process of continuous improvement.

Does accreditation align with state and federal requirements?

The AdvancED Accreditation Process provides a roadmap that can be used to meet local, state and federal accountability requirements. While governmental mandates inform education providers of what they must accomplish, AdvancED shows education providers how to accomplish those requirements by providing the process, tools, resources, training and expertise to help them continually meet and exceed mandated expectations.

What should the next steps be in pursuing accreditation?


Visit www.advanc-ed.org to learn more about accreditation as well as locate any of the over 40 AdvancED Managing Offices across the United States and internationally. A local AdvancED Managing Office can assist your institution in getting started with the application process today.

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Helping Educators
Create a World of
Opportunities
for Every Learner



AdvancED is the world leader in providing improvement and accreditation services to education providers of all types in their pursuit of excellence in serving students. AdvancED serves as a trusted partner to more than 32,000 schools and school systems — enrolling more than 20 million students — across the United States and 70 countries.

We are an innovative nonprofit organization dedicated to making sure education providers have access to tools and processes that help them be the best they can be. As a direct result of that support, education providers in turn deliver an ever-improving educational experience for their learners.



Our Mission...

Our mission is to lead and empower the education community to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. We achieve this mission by providing institutions with improvement tools and resources through **accreditation**. We recognize that everyone has a role in the success of students—from parents to teachers to school administrators. We take pride in our role just like the pride you feel when your students are thriving, learning and succeeding.

For over 100 years,
AdvancED’s three U.S.-based regional accreditation agencies — the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) — have helped education providers of all types in their pursuit of excellence in serving students. We have had a long-lasting partnership with educators around the world. We currently serve over 3.5 million educators through the institutions that we support with accreditation and school improvement resources. Educators can be confident that together we can create a world of opportunities for every learner.

What we believe...

We believe every learner should have access to high-quality instruction, learning materials and educational services that will help them succeed in and out of school. We are passionate advocates for all learners.

We believe all institutions, whether public, nonpublic, charter, early learning or parochial—year-long, traditional or online, should strive to improve continually the instruction, resources and services they provide to the students of their community.

We believe educational providers are much more likely to improve or maintain a high level of performance with the benefit of an objective third-party evaluator such as AdvancED.

Why is accreditation important?

More than 100 years ago American universities needed to know which institutions provided quality programs for their graduates, so they began the accreditation system. Today, to demonstrate education quality, accreditation is used by a wide range of education providers. Accreditation provides institutions with the tools, the data and the know-how to ensure learners are college-and career-ready.

How do education providers earn accreditation?

Accredited institutions go through a rigorous evaluation process that involves internal and external review. Through the accreditation process, institutions strive to meet a set of standards developed by AdvancED that offer education providers of all types a framework for school improvement. These institutions agree to regular self-reviews and reviews by outside evaluators to check their ongoing progress.

What are the benefits for students attending an accredited institution?

Next to a parent, you are one of the most influential figures in a student’s life. Your community wants to know that you are working all the time to improve the learning opportunities for students. An accredited institution pays attention to providing educators the resources and tools to succeed in the classroom. An accredited institution is committed to offering students a rigorous, diverse and sound curriculum instructed by qualified educators. Students also are eligible for special programs, grants and scholarships.

What does accreditation mean for educators?

The ultimate goal of every educator is to ensure that all learners are college-and career-ready. Educators commit themselves to making a positive impact. Accreditation is an in-depth process of school improvement that empowers you to become an agent of change. An AdvancED accredited institution has access to valuable resources and tools that provide information and data about your school's strengths as well as areas that need focus and improvement. You are equipped to more effectively identify and implement strategies for improvements in teaching and learning to overcome the challenges you face every day.

With AdvancED, you are not alone in facing these challenges; you join the vast AdvancED network of institutions sharing insights into what’s happening in classrooms across the globe. You also join the many volunteers in the AdvancED community giving their time as a member of an External Review Team. Educators who have taken advantage of this opportunity to exchange ideas and provide meaningful feedback to other schools affirm that it is one of the most rewarding learning experiences in their career.

