Accreditation Matters!

When considering where to go and what to study at college, the college and program accreditation can affect your career and future opportunities.

In many professions—from nursing to engineering—state laws and employer preferences may require you to obtain your degree from an accredited program.

Accreditors verify that an academic program offers a quality education, so that you are prepared for your career. There are two kinds of accreditation:

- **institutional accreditation** means the college or university meets broad organizational quality standards, and
- **specialized or professional (also called programmatic) accreditation** means an academic program at the college or university meets quality educational standards for that profession.

Institutional accreditation alone will often not be adequate to ensure that you can get a job - as programmatic accreditation may be required.

ASPA

Association of Specialized & Professional Accreditors

Know before you go

Questions you should ask the college:

- **Is the program accredited? If so, by which accreditor?**
  (Make sure the college specifies whether it has institutional or programmatic accreditation, or both—you can then go to the accreditors' websites to verify this information.)

- **If the program is not accredited, will I be able to work in this or any other state after I graduate?**
  (You should check the individual state requirements for where you want to work in the profession you are considering.)

- **Is there an exam or certification required to work in this field? If so, does graduating from your program mean I can take that exam or be eligible for certification?**

- **How important is programmatic accreditation to the employers in this field?**

- **Does your programmatic or institutional accreditation make me eligible for federal student aid?**

Visit aspa-usa.org for more information and links to accreditors for the professions and disciplines listed on the right.

Applied Science
Acupuncture
Allied Health
Architecture
Art and Design
Athletic Training
Audiology
Business
Chiropractic Medicine
Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Computing
Construction
Counseling
Credibility Assessment
Dance
Dentistry
Early Childhood Teacher
Engineering
Engineering Technology
English Language Programs
Forensic Science
Funeral Service
Genetic Counseling
Health Education
Health Informatics/ Information
Healthcare Management
Homeopathic Medicine
Industrial Technology
Landscape Architecture
Library / Information Studies
Marriage and Family Therapy
Medical Education
Midwifery
Montessori Teacher
Music
Naturopathic Medicine
Nuclear Medicine Technology
Nurse Anesthesia
Nurse Practitioner
Nursing
Nutrition and Dietetics
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Osteopathic Medicine
Pharmacy
Physical Therapy
Physician Assistant
Podiatric Medicine
Project Management
Psychology
Public Affairs and Administration
Public Health
Rabbinical/Talmudic Education
Respiratory Care
Sign Language Interpretation
Social Work
Speech-Language Pathology
Theatre
Urban Planning
Veterinary Medicine