



THE PRIVATE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

Accreditation and the Accrediting Process: Information

This information is for:

- registered private post-secondary institutions
- students
- funding agencies
- government officials
- the general public

The Private Post-Secondary Education Commission has responsibility under the *Private Post-Secondary Education Act* (S.B.C. Chapter 64), for:

- *consumer protection in respect of registered institutions* [s. 2(1)(a)]
- *ensuring that standards of integrity and educational competence are met by accredited institutions providing private post-secondary education in the Province* [s.2(1)(b)]

This document addresses the second responsibility--- accreditation.

What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a relatively new concept in private post-secondary education in Canada, and generally one that is not understood. The Commission defines accreditation as a voluntary process by which a registered institution seeks recognition of its standards of integrity and educational competence. Through the accreditation process the institution and its programs are evaluated and recognized for quality assurance, and is issued an accreditation certificate which remains valid for a period of five years.

Who Benefits?

Students benefit from knowing that an institution and its educational programs meet standards established by the Commission.

The institution benefits from a process that emphasizes self-evaluation and self-improvement.

The public benefits from gaining confidence in private post-secondary education in British Columbia.

Who May Apply?

Any institution registered with the Commission, and who has been in operation for at least one year, may apply for accreditation. However, registered institutions are under no obligation to participate in the accreditation process, nor do they need to be accredited in order to conduct their educational activities.

The Goals of Accreditation

The goals of the accreditation process include:

- stimulating the institution to discover its strengths and weaknesses through self-study, and to act upon that knowledge
- encouraging more efficient and effective management
- encouraging an on-going developmental process which will lead to higher levels of excellence
- confirming the present performance and achievements of the institution in key educational and administrative areas

The accreditation process will:

- be fair and equitable to all parties
- be valuable and cost-effective for institutions
- build public confidence in private post-secondary education in British Columbia

The Accreditation Process

The Commission's goal is to implement a process that is fair and equitable, and that is seen as valuable and cost-effective by the institutions seeking accreditation. It has developed a three-stage accreditation process:

1. the application and self-study stage

- an institution submits an application for accreditation
- the Commission sends to the institution the *Accreditation Self-Study Guide*, which identifies the areas of operation to be evaluated, and the criteria against which the institution's performance and achievement in each of these areas are judged
- the institution completes its self-study

2. the audit stage

- an accreditation team visits the institution to validate the data submitted in the self-study stage
- the accreditation stage
- the Commission grants an accreditation certificate where it determines that the institution and the education provided by it meet the criteria for accreditation

Applying for Accreditation

To receive a copy of the *Accreditation Overview* and application form, or to obtain further information concerning the accreditation process, contact:

The Private Post-Secondary Education Commission
350 - 5172 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 2E8
Phone (604) 660-4400 or Fax (604) 660-3312

Phone (toll free within B.C.) 1-800-661-7441

This information is taken from a brochure by
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For related information, see [Private Post-Secondary Education in B.C.](#)



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