The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business

AACSB International Certificate of Accreditation

for achievement of the highest standard in management education through a commitment to quality and continuous improvement

Initial Business Accreditation

ACCREDITATION
The Benchmark of Quality for Business Education Worldwide
THERE ARE MORE THAN 15,000 BUSINESS PROGRAMS IN THE WORLD TODAY.

Business schools, faculty and administrators face a tough challenge—how to differentiate their programs while providing superior quality.

Similarly, prospective business students face the challenge of choosing a degree program that provides not only the knowledge and skills to excel in the global business world, but also long-term career opportunities after graduation.

About AACSB International

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) is a global, nonprofit membership organization of educational institutions, businesses, and other entities devoted to the advancement of management education. AACSB advances quality management education worldwide through accreditation, thought leadership, and value-added services.

Established in 1916, AACSB Accreditation is the internationally recognized, specialized designation for business and accounting programs at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral levels. As reported by surveyed schools, AACSB Accreditation helps produce higher caliber, better-prepared business graduates who are more desirable to prospective employers.

AACSB’s accreditation standards drive impact, innovation and engagement with students, employers, and various stakeholders. The standards are rigorous, relevant, and benchmarks of quality. Institutions that hold AACSB Accreditation are committed to high quality and continuous improvement—a powerful differentiator worldwide.
Preparing for a career in business requires attending a business school with engaged faculty, impactful research, relevant and challenging curricula, and the highest standards of quality.

AACSB-accredited schools are committed to delivering the best business education and preparing their graduates to excel from the first day of their careers.

AACSB Accreditation is an assurance that students will receive everything they need from a business school—relevant knowledge, useful skills, access to employers, challenging courses, and a wealth of resources to help them succeed.

“Accreditation is about quality assurance and continued improvement. AACSB provides a global network of high-quality business schools to share best practices, challenges, and opportunities.”

Jorge Haddock, Dean, School of Management, George Mason University
The Path to AACSB Accreditation

To learn more about the AACSB Accreditation process, visit: www.aacsb.edu/accreditation.

1. Eligibility
   The First Step Towards Achieving Accreditation.
   - Completion of an eligibility application.
   - The process is managed by AACSB Accreditation staff and the Initial Accreditation Committee. This committee is comprised of experienced business school deans (or former deans) from accredited institutions worldwide.
   - There are several criteria a school must meet to be determined eligible to enter the PreAccreditation process.

2. PreAccreditation
   Analysis, Planning, and Implementation Phase.
   - Assignment of an experienced volunteer mentor and an AACSB Accreditation staff liaison.
   - Development of a Standards Alignment Plan outlining strategic objectives that align with AACSB standards.
   - Continually report on progress to the Initial Accreditation Committee.
   - Identify potential areas of concern and receive guidance.

3. Initial Accreditation
   Development and Evaluation Phase.
   - Final preparation and evaluation.
   - On-site campus visit by Peer Review Team.
   - Peer Review Team’s recommendation reviewed by accreditation committee and AACSB Board of Directors.
   - The Board confers the final vote on AACSB Accreditation.
Earning AACSB Accreditation is a comprehensive, demanding process.

Entering the accreditation process requires the involvement of all stakeholders involved with the institution. The process leading up to achieving accreditation is designed to help the organization refine its strategic direction, improve overall program and faculty quality, and provide an organized framework for tracking and supporting day-to-day operations. A detailed description of this process can be found online at: www.aacsb.edu/accreditation/business.

Accreditation Achieved

Less than 5% of the world’s 15,671 business programs hold AACSB Accreditation.

- Your business school joins an elite group of institutions by earning AACSB Accreditation.
- Quality peers, bright students, well defined programs, and advanced resources equal an environment for success.
- Your school produces higher caliber, better-prepared business graduates who are more desirable to prospective employers.

Continuous Improvement

An Ongoing Commitment to Quality.

- Once a school earns AACSB Accreditation, it enters a five year continuous improvement review cycle.
- This process ensures that AACSB-accredited schools continually improve and maintain the highest levels of quality.
- Following the development of a continuous improvement report by the institution, a peer review team site visit is conducted with a focus on strategic management, continuous improvement and overall high quality.
Given the complex nature of today’s evolving business environment, accounting professionals must be highly prepared to respond to increased demands for financial and operating accountability. The accounting field continues to be one of the fastest-growing business professions, making it critical for business schools to prepare graduates for a fast-paced, technologically-driven, global business environment.

AACSB Accounting Accreditation—developed specifically for schools with advanced programs in accounting, is an optional extension of AACSB Accreditation that recognizes the leading specialized, professionally-designated accounting programs at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral levels at leading global business schools.

As an important indicator of quality of a school’s accounting program, earning AACSB Accounting Accreditation informs key constituents of the intent to maintain quality and support continuous improvement on an ongoing basis. Schools who have earned Accounting Accreditation demonstrate a commitment to innovation and engagement, impacting the profession, the academic community, and beyond.

AACSB Accounting Accreditation Process

Less than 1% of business schools worldwide hold both AACSB Business and Accounting Accreditation.

To apply, a school must either hold AACSB Accreditation or be in the process of earning AACSB Accreditation (a school may simultaneously apply for both accreditations).
Mentors, Peer Review Teams, and Committees

Volunteers from AACSB’s global community of accredited schools are critical to the accreditation process. Volunteers share their expertise and insight in business education, provide individualized mentoring, quality reviews, and make decisions concerning schools that are involved in the AACSB Accreditation process.

“Volunteers are vital to the overall quality and integrity of our accreditation process.”

Joseph A. DiAngelo, Dean, Haub School of Business, Saint Joseph’s University

Volunteers

Volunteers contribute directly to the advancement of business education by sharing best practices and mentoring schools pursuing AACSB Accreditation. Volunteers travel to schools for on-site reviews, work with teams to evaluate a school’s quality, and serve on committees to ensure the AACSB Accreditation processes are fair and consistent.

If you are a dean or associate dean of an AACSB-accredited school and would like to be an accreditation volunteer, visit: www.aacsb.edu/accreditation/volunteers.