



# ABOUT ACICS

The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) was founded in 1912 to establish and advance the quality of education and the standards of excellence at private post-secondary schools and colleges. The organization has a long history as an authorized national accrediting organization, and is one of only two national accrediting bodies that are recognized by both the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as a reliable authority on institutional quality. ACICS has been recognized continuously by the Department of Education since 1956.

## ROLES OF ED AND CHEA

- **ED:** Assures that accrediting organizations contribute to maintain the soundness of institutions and programs that receive federal funds.
- **CHEA:** Assures that accrediting organizations contribute to maintain and improve academic quality at the degree-granting level.

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*“I renew for a period of five years the recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, grant a revision of the language of its existing scope of recognition, and expand the scope to include distance education.”*

— LETTER FROM SECRETARY MARGARET SPELLINGS,  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DECEMBER 12, 2006

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## ESTABLISHING STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

ACICS standards are focused on professional and technical, degree-level learning outcomes that are stringent and specific. Most of the colleges offer degree programs, including bachelor's, master's and some applied doctoral-level credentials. Colleges and schools accredited by ACICS are required to meet and maintain high standards of faculty qualifications, student retention and student placement.

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## BY THE NUMBERS

- ACICS accredits **more than 850** colleges, universities and schools throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and seven foreign countries.
- ACICS-accredited schools serve more than **880,000** students enrolled in professional, technical and occupational programs through the doctoral degree level, including programs offered via distance education.
- ACICS-accredited institutions offer **hundreds** of professional and technical skills programs in a variety of disciplines, including accounting, business administration, management, computer operations, paralegal, culinary arts, graphic arts, nursing, allied health, electronics and many others.
- ACICS will celebrate its Centennial Birthday in 2012, marking **100** years of service to the career education community in the United States.



# ABOUT ACICS



ACICS accreditation is a gateway for access to federal student financial aid. Recognized by ED and CHEA as a reliable authority on the quality of education, ACICS-accredited colleges and schools are eligible to participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs.

ACICS is a trans-regional and trans-national accrediting authority. It is authorized to accredit institutions within a state and a region, as well as across regions (trans-regional). ACICS is also recognized as a reliable authority in foreign countries. This means ACICS accreditation allows institutions to operate in multiple regions of the country as well as internationally, without having to seek multiple (and often costly) regional accreditations.

## ACICS INSTITUTIONS ARE LEADERS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Employers from many fields look for graduates of accredited colleges and schools to fill their workforce needs with confidence that students have received an education according to the highest standards in their field. Colleges accredited by ACICS serve as a primary workforce-development resource, graduating trained, workplace-ready individuals who can fill growing occupations.

Proprietary for-profit schools serve as a tremendous resource for states and communities. As for-profit entities, nationally accredited institutions contribute tax dollars to state economies rather than requiring state subsidies to fund their programs. Moreover, these schools are able to expand educational delivery capacity when the demand for enrollment surges in the community because they have access to funding sources other than state and local tax funds.

**Top Programs by Enrollment - 2010**

