



# HISTORIC TIMELINE



*Benjamin Franklin Williams  
First President of NAACS*

**1912**

The National Association of Accredited Commercial Schools (NAACS), 22 private career schools, is founded to establish and advance the quality of education and standards of excellence at private business schools and colleges.

**1920s**

NAACS develops code of ethics, educational policies required of all members. NAACS develops standards of practice, creates system of inspection for new members and schools with financial, managerial or educational hardship.

**1950s**

NACBS becomes Accrediting Commission of Business Schools (ACBS). The Commission adopts new policies, standards of practice, including general requirements for entrance to private career schools, catalogs, and minimum degree requirements. Standards become the ACBS Accreditation Criteria. ACBS is recognized by U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (now ED.Gov). Agency continuously recognized through today.

**1972**

ACBS changes name to Association of Independent Colleges and Schools (AICS) to better reflect increased diversity of member institutions.



**1991**

AICS is renamed Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

**2012**

ACICS milestones: 1) Agency accredits more than 900 institutions, serving nearly 1 million students in 46 states, 10 countries. 2) CHEA reaffirms ACICS authority to accredit degree-granting institutions. 3) ACICS Centennial year celebrated.



**2014**

ACICS Historic Archives provides access to history researchers of the agency's more than 100 years of images, documents, records and artifacts through digital portal. (Go to [www.ACICS.org](http://www.ACICS.org) > About Us > Historical Archives.)



**1921**

NAACS grows to 228 members.



**1949**

AACS merges with the National Council of Business Schools (NCBS), renamed the National Association and Council of Business Schools (NACBS).

**1965**

First Federal Higher Education Act signed into law. ACBS-accredited institutions fulfill all requirements and regulations under the Act; 150,000 students enrolled in accredited member institutions.

**1980**

U.S. Department of Education (ED) is formed.



**1996**

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is formed; ACICS becomes one of only two national accreditors recognized by both ED and CHEA.

**2013**

ED.Gov grants re-recognition to ACICS as reliable authority on quality and integrity.