

Global Accreditation Center for Project Management (GACPM) Philosophy of Accreditation

The Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management is committed to the attainment and maintenance of excellence in educational programs related to the field of project management. To this end, it has established the policies, procedures, and standards set forth in this handbook as a means of assessing the ability of educational programs seeking PMI “Accreditation” status to achieve the learning and performance objectives described herein. The process is dynamic, and the interpretation of the standards is subject to change as environments, technology, circumstances and stakeholder communities evolve.

Both self-evaluation and peer evaluation by professionals, rather than regulation by external forces, provide the most effective assurance of accountability to PMI’s various stakeholders. Institutions that successfully complete the Accreditation review of their project management degree programs are identified as “PMI Accredited” for these specific programs. The term “PMI Accredited” as used by an institution of higher learning implies that representatives of the Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management have reviewed the project management instruction which is being provided by that institution, and have determined that this instruction meets or exceeds the standards which have been established and defined by the Project Management Institute and documented in this handbook.

THE ROLE AND VALUE OF ACCREDITATION

Accreditation has two fundamental purposes: to assure the quality of an institution or program, and to assist in the improvement of the institution or program. Accreditation, which applies to institutions or programs, is to be distinguished from certification and licensure, which apply to individuals.

Accreditation may be conducted at either the *institutional* or *programmatic* level. Bodies conducting *institutional* accreditation consider the characteristics of whole institution. For this reason, an institutional accrediting body gives attention not only to the educational offerings of the institutions it accredits, but also to other institutional characteristics such as student personnel services, financial conditions, and administrative strength.

Bodies conducting *programmatic* or specialized accreditation, such as the Global Accreditation Center for Project Management, conduct accreditation of programs preparing students for a profession or occupation. Such bodies are often closely associated with professional associations in the field. A specialized accrediting body focuses its attention on a particular program within an institution of higher education, and provides a basic assurance of the scope and quality of professional or occupational preparation.