

Accreditation and assessment: What you need to know!

Accreditation assesses the effectiveness of an institution's educational programs by evaluating the quality of learning the results from an academic program, the infrastructure that supports the delivery of programs, as well as internal processes that are in place to insure continual improvement. Data requested often includes the quality of student achievement, completion rates such as student graduation and graduate employment, stakeholder satisfaction, and support policies that ensure success. Each evaluated within the context of an institution's stated mission. For many academic leaders, preparing for and successfully addressing accreditation expectations can be challenging. It is not uncommon for academic program and/or co-curricular units to struggle in the development and administration of processes supporting quality assurance and continuous improvement.

In this interactive session, a panel of representatives from multiple disciplines will provide examples of effective practice in assessment and accreditation that will guide advice and answer questions on how to prepare for and address accreditation expectations. Panel participants will be selected from assessment directors and program directors with successful experience in a variety of accreditation situations. Topics addressed will include: faculty involvement, accreditation as a continuous ongoing process of self-review; peer-review, responding to standards, collecting data and providing evidence, preparing reports; and documenting, and focusing on continual improvement.

This session will consist of questions to the panel organized by topic area with prepared responses that offer visualization for reinforcement and printed materials for participant download. Each topic area will include opportunities for session participants to ask questions specific to their academic situations enabling the panel to provide insights toward a successful accreditation experience. The recorded session will be edited into focused videos for each topic area and posted with the associated presenter document. This will enable enhanced learning and opportunity for participants to transfer the suggestions into each academic chairperson's context.