

- Provides benchmarks against which educational provision can be measured against employment requirements.

Nation

- Assures a highly skilled workforce which should enhance international competitiveness;
- Increases the global competitiveness of local providers;
- Provides assurance to taxpayers of the quality of the educational provision; and
- Assures government of positive returns on investment in the educational sector.

“Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives” (William A. Foster).

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“Your Gateway to Global Recognition”

Quality Assurance

“Raising the Bar in Post-Secondary/Tertiary Education and Training”

“A coherent system of post-secondary or tertiary education and training which assures excellence and integrity to all its stakeholders.”

In Barbados, the accreditation of post-secondary or tertiary institutions and training providers is the sole responsibility of the Barbados Accreditation Council. Accreditation is a voluntary process after registration (which is mandatory).

Accreditation is the process by which the Council formally evaluates an educational institution or programme of study against the standards set by the Council. It also speaks to quality improvement beyond the minimum accepted standards. It is one means by which an institution or programme of study may assure students and the general public of the quality of its educational provision.

The major purposes for accreditation are to provide objective assessment of the quality of the educational institution or programme of study offered and to stimulate continuous improvement. The Council views the accreditation process as one which should ensure quality enhancement and institutional improvement.

Some of the major benefits of accreditation to key stakeholders are:

Students

- Highlights the capabilities/competencies of the institution;
- Assures recognition of qualifications and transferability locally, regionally and internationally;
- Improves learning achievement as the quality of the educational provision is assured;
- Provides assurance that an individual is receiving value for money for time spent on a programme/course of study;

- Facilitates the transfer of learner credits from one institution to another; and
- Provides recognition for entry into higher education, profession and business.

Tertiary Educational Providers

- Provides national, regional and international recognition of quality, accountability, and public trust;
- Verifies the quality of the educational provision to potential students, businesses and governments;
- Facilitates access to support and services designed to continually improve the quality of education and training;
- Lends prestige to the provider;
- Highlights strengths and capabilities of the provider;
- Aids with student recruitment efforts; and
- Provides credibility by enhancing the image of the provider;

Employers

- Assures the quality of human capital;
- Assures the quality of qualifications and credentials presented;
- Increases productivity and performance which may lead to increased profitability; and