

AACSB ACCREDITATION
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Faculty

- 1) What are the impacts of accreditation on program and student quality?*
- 2) What kinds of increased opportunities are there for partnerships at AACSB-accredited schools?*
- 3) How does the AACSB Accreditation process benefit a school's internal culture and operations?*
- 4) Will I really have better quality peers at an AACSB-accredited school?*
- 5) What does a business school have to do to become AACSB-accredited?*

Faculty

1) What are the impacts of accreditation on program and student quality?

Program Quality

In a recent study, 95% of a sample of AACSB-accredited and in-process institutions from regions around the world reported that AACSB Accreditation "ultimately improves the quality of business programs." Additionally, 93% of the same sample of schools reported that AACSB Accreditation, "has a continuous positive effect on ongoing curricula development, program design, and delivery methods.*"

Student Quality

Ninety-one percent of the same sample of schools (mentioned above) reported that AACSB Accreditation, "enhances our ability to effectively compete with other schools for quality students." Of a separate sample of AACSB-accredited schools located worldwide, respondents reported positive outcomes with regards to the number and quality of applicants, as well as student retention and learning outcomes. For example, schools reported higher quality undergraduate, master's, and doctoral program applicants. With regards to retention rates and learning outcomes, institutions reported an increase in retention and graduation rates, as well as overall GPAs**.

** Based on responses from deans at 305 AACSB-accredited and in-process institutions from Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and the Oceania.*

*** Based on responses from deans at 234 AACSB-accredited institutions from Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and the Oceania.*

2) What kinds of increased opportunities are there for partnerships at AACSB-accredited schools?

Accreditation provides schools and faculty with a good starting point for choosing a collaborative partner. Therefore, faculty at institutions that have proven their quality through AACSB Accreditation are likely to have more opportunities to expand their careers outside of the college. For instance, 85% of surveyed schools responded that by holding AACSB Accreditation, they are more desirable partners to corporations and businesses. Eighty-four percent of these schools also reported that AACSB Accreditation facilitates networking and interaction between their faculty and faculty at other AACSB-accredited schools. Additionally, AACSB Accreditation has been found to open doors to international partnerships that "otherwise would have been unachievable," as reported by 83% of schools sampled.*

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3) How does the AACSB Accreditation process benefit a school's internal culture and operations?

Benefits to Operations

The process of AACSB Accreditation provides a framework for schools to further develop and enhance their internal operations, from the mission to the every day management of programs. According to 95% of surveyed schools, AACSB Accreditation provides a "platform for managing the school, tracking progress, and identifying areas for improvement." Ninety-three percent of schools also reported that AACSB Accreditation has a continuous positive effect on their ongoing curricula development, program design, and delivery methods*.

Benefits to Internal Culture

The most significant benefit of AACSB Accreditation on internal culture is an increased sense of faculty morale and pride for the quality achieved by all who are at the business school. Ninety-six percent of business school deans that were asked to comment on the benefits of AACSB Accreditation on faculty culture, reported that it was considered a "badge of pride" for their school and a validation of their programs*.

** Based on responses from deans at 305 AACSB-accredited and in-process institutions from Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and the Oceania.*

4) Will I really have better quality peers at an AACSB-accredited school?

It is a known fact, AACSB-accredited schools attract quality. For instance, 91% of deans surveyed reported that AACSB Accreditation helps them to enhance their ability to recruit and retain quality faculty. Within the same set of schools, 88% of deans said that AACSB Accreditation "enables our school to increase hiring standards and ultimately select higher quality faculty." AACSB Accreditation also allows for more opportunities to collaborate and partner with other high-quality business programs/schools in their country/regions, as well as with others internationally (83%)*.

** Based on responses from deans at 305 AACSB-accredited and in-process institutions from Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and the Oceania.*

5) What does a business school have to do to become AACSB-accredited?

AACSB Accreditation is a comprehensive, demanding process that requires commitment from administrators, faculty, and entire departments at a business school.

Determining a School's Eligibility

The AACSB Accreditation process begins with an Eligibility Application to determine if a school is eligible to start the accreditation process.

The Pre-Accreditation Process

Once eligibility is established, a school enters the pre-accreditation phase of the process. This beginning phase involves assessment and feedback by an accreditation mentor, AACSB staff, and the PreAccreditation Committee. This process includes the development of an in-depth plan that outlines how a school will align itself with the AACSB Accreditation Standards—all in all producing a complete road map for a school to achieve its own strategic objectives and AACSB Accreditation.

The Initial Accreditation Process

The Initial Accreditation process involves a comprehensive review of a school's progress toward alignment with the accreditation standards. If the committee and mentor find that the institution is in alignment with the standards, an on-site visit will be conducted and a recommendation for initial accreditation will be made to the AACSB Initial Accreditation Committee and Board of Directors (a board of business school leaders and corporations) for approval.

An Ongoing Commitment to Quality

Once a school has earned AACSB Accreditation, it is placed on a five-year maintenance cycle. The Maintenance of Accreditation process involves peer visits and committee involvement. The objective of the maintenance process is to ensure that AACSB-accredited schools continually improve and maintain their level of quality.