

Health Professions Network  
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L. McPherson, Ph. D.



# ACCREDITATION 2020:

Opportunities and Challenges of the New  
Educational Paradigms



# ACCREDITATION 101

- Accreditation is a Peer Review Process



# PURPOSE OF ACCREDITATION

- Indicates that the college, university or institution meets minimum quality education standards
- Provides status for financial aid



# TYPES OF ACCREDITATION

Institutional

National

Regional

Specialized/Professional/Programmatic



# NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

- 34.8% are degree-granting
- 65.1% are non-degree-granting
- 20.4 %are non-profit institutions
- 79.4% are for-profit institutions
- Can be public or private institutions
- Recognized by USDE
- Qualifies for Title IV funds



# NATIONAL ACCREDITATION CONT.

- Currently 52 National Accrediting Bodies
- ACICS- Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools
- ACCSCT-Accrediting Council of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology
- COE-Council on Occupational Education
- DETC- Distance Education and Training Council



# REGIONAL ACCREDITATION

- Six regions of the United States
- 98% are non-profit and degree-granting
- Recognized by USDE
- Qualifies for Title IV funds



# REGIONAL ACCREDITATION CONT.

- Middle States Assoc. of Colleges and Schools
- New England Assoc. of Schools and Colleges
- North Central Assoc. of Colleges and Schools
- Northwestern Commission on Colleges and Schools
- Western Assoc. of Schools and Colleges
- Southern Assoc. of Colleges and Schools
- Accredits Primary, Secondary, College Levels



# NATIONAL VS. REGIONAL ACCREDITATION

“Regionally accredited schools are predominantly academically oriented, non-profit institutions. Nationally accredited schools are predominantly for profit and offer vocational, career or technical programs. Within the American higher education system, critics note that national accrediting bodies have much lower standards than regional bodies, and consider them disreputable for this reason.”

Aasen, Adam (November 18, 2008). “Battle rages on accreditation, college money”. The Florida Times-Union. [http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/schools/2008-11-12/battle\\_rages\\_on\\_accreditation-college-money](http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/schools/2008-11-12/battle_rages_on_accreditation-college-money). Retrieved June 3, 2011.



# ACCREDITATION AGENCY RECOGNITION

- Department of Education
- CHEA-Council for Higher Education Accreditation



# PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITATION

- CAAHEP- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- ABHES- Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
- NAACLS- National Accrediting Agency of Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- JRCERT-Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology



# BASIC ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- Sponsorship
- Program Goals
- Resources
- Curriculum
- Student and Graduate Evaluation  
/ Assessment
- Fair Practices



# HISTORY AND FORMATION OF CAAHEP

- From CAHEA
  - Committee on Allied Health Education Accreditation
  - a committee of the AMA
- Organized as a separate corporation in April 1994



# CAAHEP

**Largest programmatic/specialized accreditor  
in the health sciences field in the U.S.**

# ACCREDITS:

- More than 2200 programs in
- Approximately 1300 sponsoring institutions in
- 23 health sciences occupations



# PROFESSIONS

- Advanced Cardiac Sonographer
- Anesthesia Assistant
- Anesthesia Technology
- Cardiovascular Technology
- Cytotechnology
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Electroneurodiagnostic Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic
- Exercise Physiology
- Exercise Science
- Kinesiotherapy
- Lactation Consultant



# PROFESSIONS (CON'T)

- Medical Assisting
- Medical Illustration
- Orthotic and Prosthetic Technician
- Orthotist and Prosthetist
- Perfusion
- Personal Fitness Training
- Polysomnographic Technology
- Recreational Therapy
- Specialist Blood Bank Technology/Transfusion
- Surgical Assisting
- Surgical Technology



# CAAHEP LEADERSHIP BODIES

- Commission (Educators, Professionals Organization Sponsors, VA, DOD, Hospitals, General Public, Recent graduate)
- Board of Directors (elected from among Commissioners)
- Committees on Accreditation (CoAs)



# OPPORTUNITIES

- Third Party Accreditor
- Collaboration among diverse professions
- Collaboration between levels of education
- Career pathways



# PROVIDES A VENUE FOR A COMMON FOCUS/COMMON VOICE

- Emergency Preparedness
- Site Visitor Training
- New Program Director In-service
- Outcome measures
- Grants



# ACCREDITATION CHALLENGES

- Outcomes vs. Process Measures
- Distance Education
- Accreditation Silos (Third Party requirements)
- Transferability of Credits (Regional vs National accreditation)
- Site Visitor Training
- Gainful Employment Mandates



# CHALLENGES CONT.

- Litigation(GAO/Institutions)
- Transfer of Sponsorships
- Accreditation Costs
- Electronic Documentation



# QUESTIONS?

M. LaCheeta McPherson, Ph.D. MLS

[LMcPherson@dccd.edu](mailto:LMcPherson@dccd.edu)

