

Second Lecture

Accreditation

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QUALITY ASSURANCE CENTER

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Definitions of Accreditation 1/2

- ▶ “The action or process of officially recognizing someone as having a particular status or being qualified to perform a particular activity” **Oxford Dic.**
- ▶ “Official approval, esp. in order to maintain satisfactory standards” **Cambridge Dic.**
- ▶ “Certification of competence in a specified subject or areas of expertise, and of the integrity of an agency, firm, group, or person, awarded by a duly recognized and respected accrediting organization” **Business Dic.**

Definitions of Accreditation 2/2

- ▶ “The formal recognition by an independent body, generally known as an accreditation body, that a certification body operates according to international standards” **ISO**
- ▶ In education: the process of obtaining a certificate, from a recognized body, confirming that the performance of a particular institution/program is in accordance with scientific standards

Types of Accreditation in Education 1/2

- ▶ **There are two main types of accreditation: Institutional & Programmatic**
- ▶ **Institutional accreditation reviews educational institutions**
- ▶ **Programmatic accreditation reviews specific programs within institutions**

Types of Accreditation in Education 2/2

- ▶ Accreditation can also be classified into two types: Local & International
- ▶ In local (internal) accreditation, the accreditation body (and the standards) is local or national
- ▶ In international (external) accreditation, the accreditation body (and the standards) is international

Importance of Accreditation 1/4

- ▶ **Accreditation is important for:**
 - ▶ **The institution itself**
 - ▶ **The students & parents**
 - ▶ **The employers**
 - ▶ **The government**

Importance of Accreditation 2/4

- ▶ This can be summed up as follows; accreditation:
 - ▶ helps determine whether an institution (or a program) fulfils or exceeds minimum standards of quality
 - ▶ helps students determine acceptable institutions for enrollment
 - ▶ assist institutions in determining acceptability of transfer credits
 - ▶ helps employers determine the validity of programs of study and whether a graduate is qualified

Importance of Accreditation 3/4

▶ Accreditation (Cont'd):

- ▶ involves staff, faculty, students, graduates, and advisory boards in institutional evaluation and planning
- ▶ creates goals for institutional self-improvement
- ▶ helps governments and other lending institutions ensure that their money will be paid back as graduates are more assured of finding jobs

Importance of Accreditation 4/4

▶ Accreditation (Cont'd):

- ▶ assures parents that their sons/daughters will be receiving high-quality education and will be highly-qualified graduates
- ▶ provides good reputation for institutions, which is reflected in a better financial situation for the institution and its employees

Accreditation Bodies 1/2

- ▶ There are many accreditation bodies around the world; they are mainly of two types:
 - ▶ Government bodies
 - ▶ Nonprofit bodies that are officially recognized by government bodies

Accreditation Bodies 2/2

- ▶ Locally, the only body eligible for providing accreditation in Syria is the Ministry of Higher Education ([Appendix 1](#))
- ▶ Internationally, there are hundreds of accreditation bodies
- ▶ Al Andalus University for Medical Sciences is seeking accreditation from a German agency: ACQUIN ([Appendix 2&3](#))

End of lecture

Any questions?