

Serving on the Accreditation Teams

Su Swarat, Ph.D. California State University, Fullerton
Meiling Tang, Ph.D. Touro University California

OCAR Webinar, 2023

Outline

- Introduction: U.S. Accreditation System
- Q & A: Serving on Accreditation Peer Review Teams

What is Accreditation?

“Accreditation is a process of external quality review created and used by higher education to scrutinize colleges, universities and programs for quality assurance and quality improvement” .

“Accreditation is a voluntary process that recognizes and verifies universities for their quality and subsequently makes them eligible for federal financial aid.”

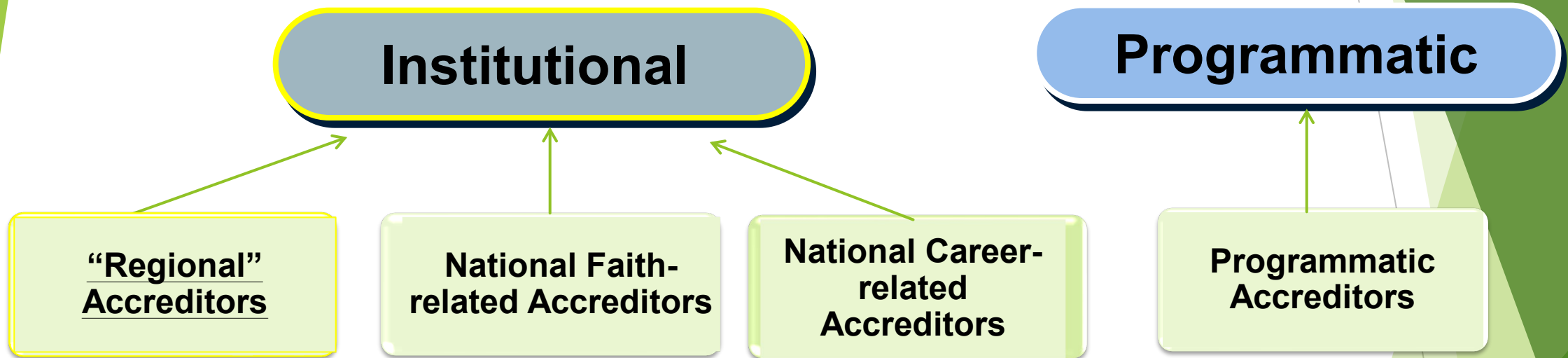
Source : Judith S. Eaton, 2015, “An Overview of U.S. Accreditation”

Accreditation is the primary means by which colleges, universities and programs assure quality to students and the public.

Why Accreditation?

- Federal Financial Aid
- Federal Research Funding
- Degree Recognition: licensure, certification, credential
- Credit Transfer
- Quality Assurance

Accreditation Types



CHEA and DOE: Recognize Accreditors and hold them accountable

US DEPT OF EDUCATION



**COUNCIL FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION ACCREDITATION**

OVERSEE

AGENCIES THAT

ACCREDIT

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



Accreditation Process

- Self Study (Institutional Report)
 - ✓ Address accreditation standards
 - ✓ Use data and evidence to tell the story
- Peer Review (Site Visit)
- Commissioner Decision
- Follow up
 - ✓ Annual report-IR data
 - ✓ Subsequent interactions (interim report; special visit; etc.)

Serving on Peer Review Teams

Question 1:

Can you tell us the composition of the accreditation review team? How is the team formed?

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Question 2:

Why did you decide to join the review team? What are the benefits of serving in a team?

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Question 3:

If I would like to serve on the team, how do I get invited? Any requirements? Qualifications?

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Question 4:

**If I am invited to join a team, what should I expect?
What commitments? Workload? Any advice for first
timers?**

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Question 5:

From the review team's perspective, what can the office of IR/IE help their institutions to prepare for a better accreditation review?

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Question 6:

You two have been serving in multiple teams, any “fun” stories to share?