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## Accreditation – The President of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) in the United States explains:

“There are seven regional accrediting organizations in the U.S. that accredit almost all public and private nonprofit higher education institutions, including all major research universities, highly selective liberal arts colleges, comprehensive community colleges and state colleges and universities.”

Because we are headquartered in the midwest, Kaplan University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools ([www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org)).

“These more than 3,000 institutions constitute the largest single block of degree-granting colleges and universities accredited by a single type of institutional accreditor, educating more than 20 million students during the 2010–2011 academic year.”

**Kaplan University is among this group.**

“They include all universities in the U.S. that are considered *world class*.”

“Regional accreditation, for decades, has been formally or legally acknowledged as a reliable authority on academic quality by the federal government, all states, foundations that support higher education and corporations that support the education of employees.”



Source: Judith Eaton, President, CHEA, in its official publication, *Inside Accreditation* (Volume 5, Number 1, January 20, 2009), and the CHEA 2011 Almanac of External Quality Review. Quoted by permission. Emphases added.



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# Types of Accreditation

## What it means:

“*Accredited status* means that students and the public can expect that a school or program lives up to its promises. It means that a student can have confidence that a degree or credential has value. Accreditation signals that the public can have confidence in the worth of an institution or program.”

Source: CHEA: The Value of Accreditation, June 2010.

Accredited institutions are evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure continued compliance with standards.

## There are two main types of institutional accreditation:

1. **Regional accreditors:** accredit public and private, mainly nonprofit as well as proprietary **degree-granting** schools. **Kaplan University is among these.**
2. **National accreditors:** accredit mainly career-based institutions, many of which offer shorter programs such as diplomas or certificates, in addition to degrees.

For additional information visit:

- Council for Higher Education Accreditation: [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)
- U.S. Department of Education: [www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/](http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/)

## The Higher Learning Commission also accredits many schools in the area, including:

### Hawkeye Community College

[http://ncahlc.org/component/com\\_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1236/](http://ncahlc.org/component/com_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1236/)

### University of Northern Iowa

[http://ncahlc.org/component/com\\_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1259/](http://ncahlc.org/component/com_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1259/)

### Upper Iowa University

[http://ncahlc.org/component/com\\_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1260/](http://ncahlc.org/component/com_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1260/)

### Wartburg College

[http://ncahlc.org/component/com\\_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1262/](http://ncahlc.org/component/com_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1262/)

### Marshalltown Community College

[http://ncahlc.org/component/com\\_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1240/](http://ncahlc.org/component/com_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1240/)

### University of Iowa

[http://ncahlc.org/component/com\\_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1258/](http://ncahlc.org/component/com_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1258/)

## Programmatic Accreditation

Institutional accreditation evaluates the quality of an entire institution. However, programmatic (or “specialty”) accreditation evaluates individual programs and may permit graduates to sit for certification or licensure exams required for certain types of employment.

To learn more about the programmatic accreditations available at Kaplan University visit:

<http://www.kaplanuniversity.edu/about/accreditation-licensing.aspx>