

ACCESS

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AACSB ACCREDITATION Accreditation Proves Not All Business Programs Are Created Equal

FEATURE ARTICLE

Today, more than ever, it's crucial for prospective business students—and employers offering tuition reimbursement—to know a high-quality business education program when they see it. Looking for programs like the Kelley School of Business that have earned accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) is one way to distinguish those schools worthy of consideration.

"AACSB accreditation is not a rubber stamp," says Roger Schmenner, associate dean for Kelley Indianapolis. "It's an active accreditation based on peer review that requires us to submit updated reports of our program every year."

Founded in 1916, AACSB International has become the premier agency granting accreditation to business schools worldwide. Just over 500 programs globally have received accreditation through the organization, which accredits undergraduate and graduate business administration and accounting programs. Kelley earned its first AACSB accreditation in 1921. The school's most recent accreditation for both business administration and accounting was granted in 2002. Kelley maintains its accreditation through periodic review of its commitment and adherence to strategic program improvement.

"With more and more organizations offering business degrees online and the proliferation of bogus 'diploma mills,' accreditation by credible agencies like AACSB is a key differentiator that sets quality programs like Kelley apart," says Schmenner.

AACSB accreditation ensures that business schools:

- Manage resources to achieve a vibrant and relevant mission.
- Advance business and management knowledge through faculty scholarship.
- Provide high-caliber teaching of quality and current curricula.
- Cultivate meaningful interaction between students and a qualified faculty.
- Produce graduates who have achieved specified learning goals.

Schools applying for AACSB accreditation must submit a self-evaluation report. A peer review team representing the organization visits the school and ultimately makes the final decision on whether to grant accreditation. In addition to assessing the school's mission, the accrediting body evaluates factors such as the scope of degrees offered, curriculum content, faculty qualifications and development, student selection, instructional resources, and intellectual contributions to the field of business.



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—Roger Schmenner, associate dean



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