

ICAR Accreditation System

5.1 Accreditation Statement

Accreditation is a process of assuring acceptable institutional quality and a tool for improving educational standards. The process intends to improve and sustain quality and integrity of education, and to improve transferability and marketability of students nationally and internationally. Accreditation status of an institution will constitute a statement to general public that:

- It has clearly defined and appropriate objectives.
- It has established an environment that makes achievements of these objectives possible.
- It is accomplishing its objectives substantially.
- It is so organized, staffed and supported that it is expected to continue to do so.

5.2 Accreditation Criteria

The statement to the general public regarding the status of an accredited institution must reflect in accreditation criteria. Therefore, following four criteria have been fixed.

Criterion 1: The institution has clear and publicly stated objectives consistent with its mission and goals.

Evidences required to meet this criterion are existence of :

- Short and long term institutional goals and objectives, and mechanism for their understanding by different constituents of the university.
- Sound decision making process.
- Review and evaluation process.
- Public information system including published materials
- Commitment to the excellence.

Criterion 2: The institution has organized effectively human, financial and physical resources, necessary to accomplish its objectives.

Evidences required to meet this criterion are existence of :

- Board of Management of appropriate people.
- Effective administration through well defined policies, procedures and organizational structure.
- Faculty members with appropriate educational credentials.
- Sufficient number of students in various programs and students services .
- Safe and healthy environment for faculty, staff and students.
- Physical facilities for good teaching and learning.
- Adequate infrastructure and academic resources.
- Adequate financial resources.

Criterion 3: The institution is accomplishing its educational objectives.

Evidences required to meet this criterion are existence of:

- Educational programs that are clearly defined and properly executed.
- Appropriate assessment mechanism for academic achievements.
- Transcript that accurately reflect students learning.
- On-going support for professional development of faculty, staff and administrators.
- Evidence of salient achievement in education, research and extension.

Criterion 4: The institution can continue to accomplish its objectives and improve its quality of educational programs and effectiveness.

Evidences required to meet this criterion are existence of:

- Resource base - human, physical and financial.
- Structured assessment process that are continuous.
- Effective planning process.
- Commitment from appropriate authorities for continued support.

5.3 Three Tier Accreditation System

- University accreditation
- College accreditation
- Individual program, faculty and departmental accreditation

5.4 Accreditation Period

- The accreditation will be done for the first time after successful completion of at least one batch of students.
- After the first accreditation, the re-accreditation will be done periodically, after an interval of 5-10 years.

5.5 Speciality of ICAR Accreditation system

- Accreditation is voluntarily in nature and not mandatory as in case of AICTE, MCI, VCI, etc.
- Financial assistance linked with the accreditation status of an institution.
- No grading of an institution / program, an emerging trend world-wide.
- If accredited with conditions, the stipulated conditions have to be met within the specified time frame.
- In case of non-compliance, ICAR financial assistance may be reduced / stopped.

5.6 General Institutional Requirements

An institution to meet the four basic criteria for accreditation must fulfill certain requirements. These are termed as General Institutional Requirements (GIR) and include:

- Authorization
- Governance
- Mission, goals and objectives
- Academic programs
- Faculty and other human resources
- Students development
- Library and other learning resources
- Physical facilities
- Financial resources
- Research and extension education
- Other units and public information system

5.7 Steps in Accreditation Process

The accreditation process involves following four steps.

- The institutional self-study report aimed at examining how an institution meets the criteria and the general institutional requirements.
- Evaluation team visits institution to validate self-study report.
- Review of the self-study and peer team reports, and also response from the institution by the Accreditation Board Secretariat, and submission of its recommendations to the Accreditation Board.
- Final decision on the accreditation status of the institution by the Board.