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# HEAC - Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the AER Accreditation Council?**

The Council is the governing body responsible for the standards and has final authority to award or deny accreditation. It awards accreditation to degree programs that demonstrate evidence of high quality by meeting administrative and professional preparation standards.

**What is the higher education program accreditation?**

It is an in-depth review of an academic program that provides validation and that helps to facilitate a high quality learning experience for students.

**Is accreditation important?**

The Higher Education Accreditation communicates an institution’s commitment to quality and provides an opportunity to raise the visibility of the program. Accreditation encourages intentional, insightful, and innovative program design and facilitates an alignment between the institution and the programs’ missions and goals.

**How long is the accreditation process?**

The accreditation process includes submitting an Application Form/fee, a self-study, and a review by a 4-member panel, HEAC and AERAC. The entire process can take up to 6 months depending on the completeness of all components of the application.

**How do I obtain an application for accreditation?**

Applications and related information can be obtained on the website: <https://www.aerbvi.org/higher-education-colleges-and-universities-> or by sending an email to accreditation@aerbvi.org.

**How can I become a reviewer?**

All information for becoming a reviewer is available on the website: <https://www.aerbvi.org/become-a-reviewer> or you can send an email to accreditation@aerbvi.org for more information.

**What is the period of Higher Education Accreditation?**

An accreditation is valid for 5 years and requires that the institution submit an annual update report.

**Can an institution’s accreditation be revoked?**

Yes, the accreditation can be revoked at the discretion of the Council if the institution does not submit an annual update report and/or fails to demonstrate a continuous adherence to the standards.

I**s there an application fee to seek accreditation?**

There is a fee for each program: $1750 for the 1st program, $1500 for the second, $1250 for the third, and $1000 for each additional.

**Contact Information:**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (703-671-4500) or send an email to accreditation@aerbvi.org. In addition, an introductory zoom meeting with staff preparing for accreditation can be arranged with the accreditation manager to discuss the process and any organizational tips that may be helpful.