

Dear New Student:

On behalf of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC), I am writing to congratulate you on your decision to advance your education at an ACCSC-accredited institution. I also want to take a moment to tell you what accreditation means and to explain the role that ACCSC-accreditation plays in supporting and enhancing the student educational experience.

The Value of Accreditation

Accreditors establish best practices, generally referred to as “standards,” and then ask a school to show how that school is meeting (or exceeding) those standards. By attending an ACCSC-accredited institution, you should have confidence in knowing that you are attending a school that has undergone a rigorous accreditation process that has evaluated educational quality in the programs offered and that your school has shown that it is meeting ACCSC’s established standards.

Accreditation relies on experienced individuals – administrators, educators, and subject matter specialists – to review the quality of the education provided by your school. The accreditation process evaluates areas including the qualifications of administrators and faculty delivering the education; the relevance and adequacy of the curriculum, equipment and learning materials; and the achievements of students in graduating from a program and subsequently obtaining employment in the field. A school that has successfully completed an accreditation review should have in place the instructional resources and student support services necessary to assist you in achieving your educational goals.

Here are some of the fundamental expectations that should be fulfilled at your accredited school:

- You should have received an enrollment agreement which includes information on tuition, class attendance, school policies, and refund policies.
- You should have been given an opportunity to review the school catalog, which includes information on admission requirements, program objectives, transfer-of-credit policies, school policies, student services, and the school’s refund policy.
- You should have faculty that have appropriate prior work experience in the field and are trained in instructional methods and teaching skills.
- You should expect that your school has a student services program that responds to individual student needs such as academic advising and graduate employment assistance.
- You should have ready access to instructional materials and equipment that are sufficiently comprehensive and reflect current occupational practice.
- You should expect that your school has designed and developed your program to include appropriate elements to achieve program objectives and competencies necessary for employment in the field for which training was provided.

You can learn more about ACCSC accreditation from our website at www.accsc.org. The [Student Corner](#) section of the website has especially helpful links to information that you may find useful.

Do Well and Graduate!

Now that you have chosen to attend this school, please commit yourself and do what you must to complete this program and graduate – your hard work and commitment to make your way to graduation day will matter. And when you do graduate, how well you have done in school will matter. It will matter to people in your community who will rely on you to provide competent work whether in healthcare, automotive trades, building trades, hospitality, information technology or whatever occupational field you have chosen to pursue. It will matter to employers who only want to hire the most qualified workers – this means not only being competent in your field but also being a good employee who will show up to work on time, be able to solve problems, and think critically.

I also want to encourage you to stay in touch with your school after you graduate. Your school will need to be able to contact you to not only assist with your employment search, but also to show ACCSC that you are working in your chosen field because ACCSC accreditation requires that institutions demonstrate an acceptable rate of employment attainment for graduates.

What you have begun here is but one step in a lifetime of continuing education. The dynamics of an ever-changing world will likely provide you with ample opportunities for growth and at the same time challenge you to keep pace with those changes through a commitment to ongoing education and professional development. Your success in the program you have chosen will be an indicator of your ability to face such opportunities and challenges in an equally successful manner tomorrow. So, I encourage you to work hard and to take every opportunity to learn as much as you can about your chosen career field. Go above and beyond what your instructors ask of you and make every day about doing your best. Again, ACCSC extends its best wishes for your success and encourages you to commit fully to your education and your future – you can do it.

Sincerely,



Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director