



Higher Education Regulation & the Somali Context

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WHY ACCREDITATION?



Why is accreditation important?

Accreditation has several major purposes including:

1. Quality Assurance.
2. Engendering Public Confidence. Legitimacy of degree received.
3. Facilitating Transfer.
4. Institutional effectiveness.
5. Student success.
6. Access to Public Funds.

ACCREDITATION: HISTORY & OVERVIEW



Accreditation History & Examples.

- There are some 5,300 Colleges & Universities in the US.
- In the U.S., colleges and universities are accredited by one of 19 recognized institutional accrediting organizations. Programs are accredited by one of approximately 60 recognized programmatic accrediting organizations.
- There are four recognized nationwide faith-based accrediting bodies in the United States, all also recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

ACCREDITATION: HISTORY & OVERVIEW



Two types of educational accreditation:

Two types of educational accreditation

- I. Institutional Accreditation – Applies to the entire institution.
This is what we have seen in Somalia in some form or shape.

- I. Programmatic (Specialized) Accreditation – Applies to programs, departments or schools that are part of an institution.
This is what is next for Somalia over a period of 6-12 Months.

ACCREDITATION: HISTORY & OVERVIEW



Four types of accrediting organizations in the US:

1. Regional Accreditors. 1880s Akin to FMSes & Somaliland.

Northwest	Western	North Central
Middle States	Southern	New England

2. National Accreditors. Faith-based groups.
 - a. Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation
 - b. Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools Accreditation Commission
 - c. Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools
 - d. Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools Accreditation Commission

ACCREDITATION: HISTORY & OVERVIEW



Four types of accrediting organizations in the US:

3. National Career-Related Accreditors.

Distance Education Accrediting Commission

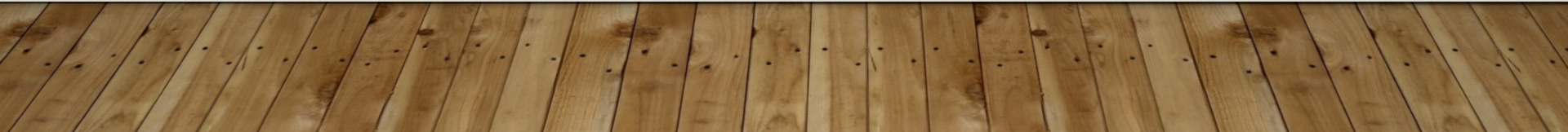
4. Programmatic Accreditors.

Examples in alphabetical order:

Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs



ACCREDITATION: HISTORY & OVERVIEW



Who can accredit universities in Somalia?

1. Only the National Commission for Higher Education.

Why not?

2. SomaliREN Standards & Accreditation.

➤ **We concluded such a process yesterday!**

3. Association of Somali Universities Standards & Accreditation?

4. Somaliland Higher Education Commission?

5. Puntland Higher Education Commission?

6. Galmudug & Hirshabelle Higher Education Commission?

7. Banadir Regional Higher Education Commission?

8. South-West & Jubaland Higher Education Commission?

SO WHO ACCREDITS THE ACCREDITORS?



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1. Accrediting organizations are **required to have “recognition” by the United States Department of Education (USDE)** in order to be eligible for federal student aid and other programs.
 2. Accrediting organizations are also accountable to the institutions and programs they accredit.

Although accreditation is a nongovernmental activity, recognition is a governmental function. Federal Government oversight of accreditation was incorporated into the Higher Education Act.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Accreditation process includes:

1. Standards Established.
2. Comprehensive Self-Study & Self-Evaluation.
3. Site visit/On-site Evaluation.
4. Judgement by Accrediting Organization.

BASIC STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION



What are the basic standards of accreditation?

1. Standard 1 - Mission, Academic Quality, Institutional Effectiveness & Integrity.
2. Standard 2 - Student Learning Programs & Support Services.
3. Standard 3 - Resources.
4. Standard 4 - Leadership & Governance.

Example of a degree standard:

Requirements for a Bachelor's Degree include:

Minimum of 120 Semester Credits.

Minimum General Education Requirements of 36 Semester Hours.

All standards apply and interpreted in the context of the degree including faculty qualifications, library resources, laboratory resources, Etc.

WHAT - ACCREDITATION STANDARDS?



Standard 1: Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness and Integrity

- A. Mission
- B. Academic Quality & Institutional Effectiveness
- C. Institutional Integrity

Standard 2: Student Learning Programs and Support Services

- A. Instructional Programs
- B. Library and Learning Support Services
- C. Student Support Services

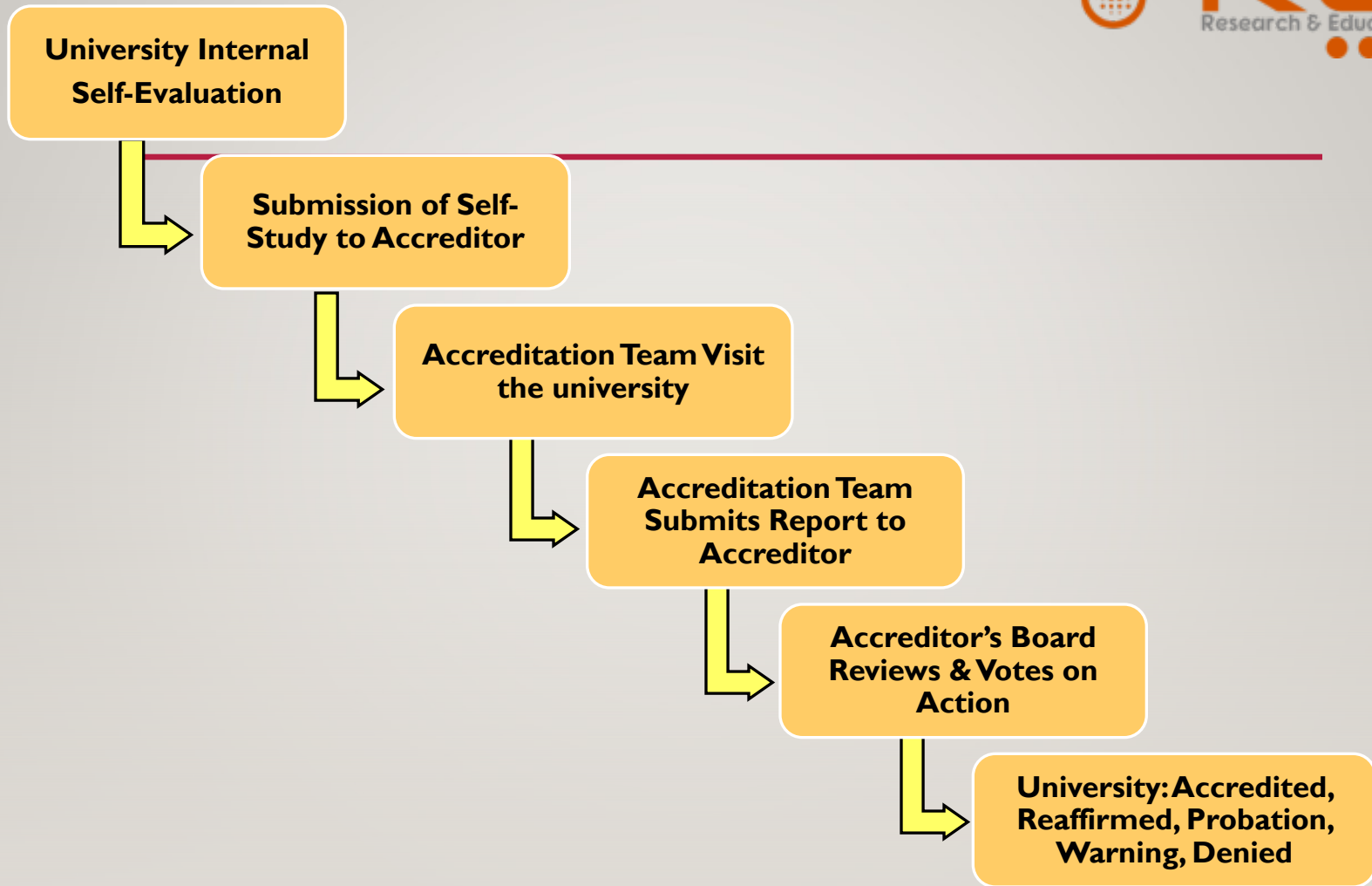
Standard 3: Resources

- A. Human Resources
- B. Physical Resources
- C. Technology Resources
- D. Financial Resources

Standard 4: Leadership and Governance

- A. Decision-Making Roles & Processes
- B. Rector/President/CEO Office
- C. Governing Board

ACCREDITATION PROCESS OVERVIEW



WHAT IS A SELF- STUDY REPORT?

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- ✓ College appraises itself: Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, Commission Policies
 - **Honest self-assessment of strengths & weaknesses**
 - ✓ Assessment of meeting accrediting organization standards
 - **On-going self-evaluation of activities for continuous improvement**
 - ✓ Reflective and forward thinking review & analysis of college processes, procedures, & practices
 - ✓ Information/evidence of meeting college mission & the standards
 - ✓ Areas for improvement
 - **A commitment to continuous quality and improvement**
 - ✓ Presentation of evidence of student achievement and learning (results, analysis of the results, Etc.)

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



What did the commission do on accreditation so far?

1. Self-Assessment by the universities based on questionnaire from the Commission.
2. Brief site visit by one or two commissioners.
3. Judgement by the commission.

What can be expected next for the commission on accreditation?

1. Provide universities with standards for programmatic accreditation.
2. Conduct a more intrusive and thorough inspection of programs in 6-12 months.
3. Provide a certificate for accreditation.
4. Develop a schedule for periodic recertification

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



What do we need to do going forward?

1. Discuss and address outstanding issues for members to complete in 6 months.
2. Contribute to the upcoming programmatic accreditation. Time & Terms?
3. Address solutions to the medical field requirement for graduate degrees. Experience?
4. Come up with standards that meet and exceed the NCHE Standards for SomaliREN.
5. Improve member conditions so as to qualify for a credible accreditation.
6. SomaliREN to recruit a qualified consultant to help members reach standards.
7. Share both the SomaliREN standards and accreditation process with the NCHE.
8. Process and provide REN accreditation for all Members in the next 12 months.
9. Inform the NCHE that SomaliREN Members are fully accredited by the REN.
10. Help unrecognized universities and students recognition conditions, mergers, Etc.
11. Lobby for a National education Act and accreditation system.



Q & A

I look forward to learning from the upcoming discussions & presentations.