POLICY TITLE
Program Accreditation

POLICY NUMBER
6.13

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY
Academic Affairs

CREATION / REVISION / EFFECTIVE DATES
Created, September 1992/ Effective September, 1992; revised October 2017/revised December 2017/effective immediately

PURPOSE
The purpose of program accreditation is to assess and verify that the educational quality of academic programs aligns with the accreditation regulations for particular professions or occupations. This process helps to ensure that students will be qualified to enter those disciplines.

ORGANIZATIONAL SCOPE OR AUDIENCE
This policy applies to all accredited degree programs in Ivy Tech Community College.

DEFINITIONS
Accreditation: The act of granting approval to an institution of learning by an official review board after the school has met specific requirements.

POLICY
Accreditation for degree programs should be sought wherever appropriate.

A specialized accrediting agency recognizes the course of instruction which comprises a unique set of skills and knowledge, develops the accreditation standards by which such educational programs are evaluated, conducts evaluation of programs, and publishes a list of accredited programs that meet the national accreditation standards. Accreditation standards are developed in consultation with those affected by the standards who represent the broad community of interests.

1. The evaluation/accreditation process offers both a means of providing public assurance of an institution's effectiveness, and a stimulus for institutional integrity and improvement.
2. Serves as a guide for assisting program development.
3. Provides criteria for the evaluation of new and established programs.

PROCEDURES
Specialized Accreditation:
1. Campuses seeking initial accreditation for new or existing programs shall obtain application for accreditation from their respective accrediting agency.
2. The program chair is responsible for a self-analysis (self-study) of the program.
3. College personnel must agree to a reasonable site visit date for the program.
4. The site visit team members submit reports to the respective accrediting body concerning the status of the program in terms of compliance with program essentials.
5. Funds to support direct costs—dues, site visit expenses—of accreditation are provided to campuses annually, based on a campus plan of projected expenses.
6. Programs may receive various levels of accreditation.
7. Campuses will be responsible for expediting payment of accreditation fees.
8. College personnel will be responsible for completing and returning, by the established deadlines, the annual reports required of each of the accrediting agencies for all accredited programs.
9. Program chairs and faculty will be responsible for complying with essentials required of the respective accrediting agencies with regard to maintaining accreditation.
10. Each campus will be responsible for informing System Office of accreditations they plan to drop or accreditations they plan to seek.

**RESOURCE PERSON**

Campus Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs