POLICY TITLE
Program Accreditation

POLICY NUMBER
6.13 (Formerly APPM 10.0)

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY
Academic Affairs

CREATION / REVISION / EFFECTIVE DATES
Created, September 1992/ Effective September, 1992

PURPOSE
The purpose of program accreditation is to assess and verify educational quality in particular professions or occupations to assure that individuals will be qualified to enter those disciplines.

ORGANIZATIONAL SCOPE OR AUDIENCE
This policy applies to all 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 to institutional improvement.
2. Serves as a guide for assisting program development.
3. Serves as a stimulus for the improvement of established programs.
4. 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 director/coordinator 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. Site visit team members submit reports to the respective accrediting body of the status of the program in complying with program essentials.
5. Funds to support direct costs--dues, site visit expenses--of accreditation are provided to regions annually, based on a regional plan of projected expenses.
6. Programs may receive various levels of accreditation.
7. Regions 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. Programs will be responsible for complying with essentials required of the respective accrediting agencies with regard to maintaining accreditation.
10. Each region will be responsible for informing Central Office of accreditations they plan to drop or accreditations they plan to seek.

RESOURCE PERSON
Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs