

Executive Brief
Accredit the Student Instead of the Institution
 by James Bartlett - rev d

The Problem

It is subtly tempting for Christian institutions to follow the world with respect to the accreditation of both high school and college educational programs. **The bottom line is that the liberal elite have brainwashed, or persuaded Christians that accreditation under the authority or recognition of the United States Department of Education (DOE) ensures that a student will get the best possible education. It has been demonstrated repeatedly that accreditation does not ensure quality in learning. Instead, accreditation secularizes, homogenizes and minimizes the depth and breadth of education while it increases costs and subtly moves masses of people toward global socialism. The spirit of accreditation, or academic respectability, has led to the loss of many formerly Christian institutions over time. Christian institutions succumb to the lure of accreditation even when they participate in Christian accreditation organizations which are recognized by the DOE for the sake of marketing and money.**

The Scriptures place the responsibility for the education of youth under the authority of the family and church, not the civil government. The children of Israel did not take over the promised-land and then submit their educational programs to accreditation by Philistine approved organizations, as contemporary Christians have done.

The word “accredit” means “to give credit, authority or reputation.” **To accredit a student, is to receive him in his public character, and give him credit and rank according to his knowledge, ability and character.** Paul was “accredited” by God (not civil government) to be an Apostle and recognized as an Apostle by Christians and unbelievers based on his gifting with respective knowledge, ability, and character.

The Solution

So how does a Christian educational organization market its genuinely superior product in a culture which has been taught to ask, “Are you accredited?” and where individuals only have time for one sound bite reply?

The answer is to design a simple accreditation system which accredits each student under the authority of the parents. Then the sound bite reply to “Are you accredited?” is **“Yes, each student is accredited by a review board.”**

Each review board is comprised of the student’s parent(s), pastor(s), and professional mentor(s) or teacher(s). The review board essentially combines the value of a graduate school committee, accreditation team and church leadership under the authority of the parents who are in turn under God’s authority (I Corinthians 11:3). To appropriately accredit each student, with the least time and effort, **the review board operates by having each review board member complete a portion of the student accreditation table. This table, in addition to traditional transcript and testing protocols, provide the student with undisputable and verifiable evidence regarding their knowledge, ability and character, which has been reviewed by the review board and is useful for any legal purpose.**

The table portions below show how accreditation tables are designed:

Character Attributes and Evidence on File (Completed by parents and pastors)

Character Attribute (observer name, address, phone number)	Date, Description, Evidence on File
ADAPTABILITY (Luke 22:42)	<u>Example:</u> 10 November 2007 without prompting of parents or others, money that was saved for a motorcycle was instead given to a mission outreach in India at the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Copy of check and accompanying letter is evidence.
APPRECIATION	
ATTENTIVENESS	
AVAILABILITY	
COMMITMENT	
COMPASSION	
CONCERN	
CONFIDENCE	
CONSIDERATION	
...	

