

Accreditation and Accountability

awarded to

03 August 2018

date



Signature



I am
your
Accreditation
agent!

SEMINARY

THE GREATEST SHOW

What is Accreditation?

A Recognition status granted to a programme for a stipulated period of time after an evaluation indicates that it meets minimum standards of quality based upon stipulated criteria (**South African system but with an added requirement of registration with the Department of Higher Education and Training)

Objections to Accreditation

- Not Biblical
- Just a money-making scheme!
- Waste of valuable time and resources!
- Separation of Church and State
- Interference in our curriculum
- Will become “ivory tower” academic institution with little regard for the church.

Biblical basis for Accreditation ?

- No verse of Scripture speaking about Accreditation
- Maybe one that talks about its effects !!!!!
LOL

They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 13: 42)

αδμιναστριζω = to be completely immersed
in paperwork! LOL

Biblical basis for Accreditation

- Could argue a Biblical basis from within a Biblical Theology of Stewardship and the Protestant Work Ethic
- Principle of John 17: 14-19 “being in this world, but not of this world”
- Principles from a number of other Scriptures, including:

Biblical basis for Accreditation

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Col. 3: 23-24 NIV)

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. (1 Cor. 4: 2 NIV)

A Troubling quote!

“In Africa, Christianity is like a lake that is a mile wide, but an inch deep”

- I don't know who originally said it but I am sure you know -

An effective antidote to this problem is solid theological education institutions/
networks

How is Accreditation achieved ?

- National/ International Accreditation agencies
- Co-operative agreements (Local or International Universities or similar institutions)
- Endorsements from Credential Verification Agencies
- “Self – Accreditation” ??? (Credible Accreditation)

Additional motivations from the Evangelical world

ICETE International Council for Evangelical Theological Education
strengthening evangelical theological education through international cooperation



ICETE in 1981 produced a “Manifesto on the Renewal of Evangelical Theological Education” and then in 2017, the Rome Declaration that seeks to develop a common global framework for the accreditation of evangelical theological education, including Global indicators of quality assurance and Comparability of regional degree specifications



ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

(Formerly called the Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa)

MISSION

"To Strengthen Member Institutions in offering quality Theological Programs through Accreditation, Networking and Support Services."



ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

ACTEA Standards for Accreditation

The following are the five key areas of focus in ACTEA accreditation process:

1. Administration – e.g. governance, mission, institutional stability, finances, among others.
2. Teaching staff – e.g. qualifications, Africanization, teaching workload, welfare, among others.
3. Facilities – e.g. adequate physical facilities, library holdings, among others.
4. Educational Programme – e.g. contextual and relevance curriculum, admission standards, length of programme, among others.
5. Students – e.g. community life; spiritual formation; discipline; fees; among others.

The Cape Town Commitment (2010)

The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization

The mission of the Church on earth is to serve the mission of God, and the mission of theological education is to strengthen and accompany the mission of the Church. Theological education serves first to train those who lead the Church as pastor-teachers, equipping them to teach the truth of God's Word with faithfulness, relevance and clarity; and second, to equip all God's people for the missional task of understanding and relevantly communicating God's truth in every cultural context.

ICETE

Excellence in
Theological
Education

Effective Training
for Church Leaders

Steven A. Hardy

Series Editor:
Riad Kassis

Who determines standards/ excellence?

- God himself - "Well done good and faithful person"
- Constituent community
- Governments/ approval agencies
- Peer Institutions
- Those working at the institution

Benefits of Accreditation

- Opportunities for Accountability
- Builds Credibility (Institution & Programs)
- Provides map for Quality Assurance
- Opportunities for Revision and Renewal
- Credibility with students (“consumers”)
- Builds Reputation
- Helps with portability of qualifications

Practical Considerations (SHARED SOLUTIONS)

- Be aware of legislation, requirements and developments in your country
- Seek to develop and establish “best practice” in all aspects of seminary life (Governance, finance, administration, faculty/staff, curriculum, policies, etc)
- Network



What are your SHARED SOLUTIONS?

Accreditation and Accountability

awarded to

ABTEN Baptist Theological Seminaries

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