

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARALEGALS  
321 NORTH CLARK STREET - 19.1  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610-4714

**APPROVED ACCREDITING AGENCIES**

A paralegal program must be offered by an institution that is accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the Standing Committee on Paralegals. The Standing Committee maintains a list of acceptable accrediting agencies. This list at present includes the six regional accrediting agencies, three accrediting agencies that work primarily with smaller institutions offering business and other career-oriented programs, and one local accrediting agency. The approved agencies are:

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools  
New England Association of Colleges and Schools  
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools  
Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges  
Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges of Technology  
Accrediting Commission for Independent Colleges and Schools  
Council for Occupational Education  
New York State Board of Regents

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**CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES UNDER G-303(c)**

1. The accrediting agency must be approved by the United States Department of Education.
2. The accrediting agency must be either regional or national in scope.
3. The accrediting agency must accredit whole institutions, not specialized programs within institutions, i.e., general institutional accreditation as opposed to specialized programmatic accreditation.
4. The accrediting agency's standards must be established for the purpose of assessing general educational quality and institutional strength and stability.
5. The accrediting agency's practices and procedures must have a rigorous form of evaluation that includes documented self-evaluation and peer evaluation with periodic comprehensive visits to the institutions it accredits.
6. The accrediting agency must itself demonstrate stability and consistency in its work over time.

Approved by the ABA Approval Commission, May 2-3, 1997

Approved by the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistants, May 30-31, 1997.