



FAQs about Marylhurst University Accreditation

What is accreditation?

According to the U.S. Department of Education, “the goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accrediting agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.”

Is Marylhurst University accredited?

Yes. The institution is accredited by The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities is one of six institutional accrediting bodies recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. These regional accrediting bodies provide accreditation at the institutional level for colleges and universities across the United States, including the most recognized colleges and universities in Oregon.

Are Marylhurst University business programs accredited?

Yes. NWCCU accreditation covers the entire university and its academic programs, including the business degrees.

In addition, Marylhurst’s business programs have sought out and earned specialized business accreditation certification as a sign of quality. The Marylhurst business degrees are accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

As an adult-oriented institution with a focus on teaching, Marylhurst chose IACBE as a specialized business accrediting body because of its mission-based and outcomes-assessment orientation. Outcomes assessment has taken the lead in measuring institutional effectiveness.

Are there other specialized business accreditors?

Yes. Contrary to some reports, there are three leading business accrediting bodies: IACBE, ACBSP, and AACSB. Community colleges and traditional research universities with tenured faculty may choose to affiliate with ACBSP or AACSB, respectively. Moreover, some schools do not have specialized business accreditation. Marylhurst is extremely satisfied with its current accreditation and feels its business degrees meet the needs of students, faculty, and employers.

Are there course differences between AACSB-accredited business schools and IACBE-accredited business schools like Marylhurst?

Both groups offer similar courses and sequences, although there are natural differences from school to school. For instance, because of its working adult student population, Marylhurst encourages local internships to allow students to practice what they are learning in the classroom. Other major differences involve how courses are delivered. Marylhurst has expertise in a number of delivery formats, including online learning, while other universities cater to daytime students.

How do I know which accrediting bodies are the best?

Business students should make sure that a program is regionally accredited. In addition, they should determine if the business degree has received specialized accreditation. If the program uses outcomes assessment, then the student can ask for quantitative measures of student learning quality. At Marylhurst, MBA students are required to take a nationally standardized test of business knowledge and have scored consistently above the national average.