

THE VALUE OF NIBHQ PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

Professionally, accreditation represents a process of voluntary review of professional training programs in behavioral health care. As such, voluntary application for accreditation demonstrates an attitude and philosophy that excellence and quality is an important goal of a program. Specialized accreditation, which NIBHQ offers, is awarded to professional programs that are under the jurisdiction of institutions, such as a university or college, or to free-standing, professional schools offering post graduate training in behavioral health care practice, such as clinical psychology, social work, and counseling, or other programs in behavioral health care.

NIBHQ Accreditation

Accreditation is an assessment a program's quality and its developmental enhancement of operations by meeting unique professional standards. NIBHQ accreditation uses a number of assessment tools e.g., self-assessment and peer assessment, to assess how well quality standards are being met. NIBHQ accreditation provides a way for the public and other interested parties to determine that a program has demonstrated and is fulfilling its commitment to educational quality.

The Role Of Self Assessment

When a training program undertakes self-assessment, it indicates that those responsible for the program have set forth and articulated a measurable mission for the program and detailed the ways to accomplish that mission. The mission, goals, and objectives are clear, well stated, and made available to all stakeholders and other educators. Availability to the program's operation demonstrates its intent to be held accountable for its activities. This important information assists prospective students in selecting a training program.

A self-assessment study is an assessment of the program's objectives, strengths, and weaknesses, and financial and educational resources that serves the purpose of improving the educational effectiveness and quality of the program. NIBHQ's self-assessment study focuses on planning, goal setting and achievement, and objective measurement of the goals and the mission of the program.

Peer Assessment And the Accreditation Process

Peer evaluation is a review of the self-assessment study compared to standards established by the NIBHQ Board. Peer evaluators are professional practitioners and well qualified representatives their professions. This type of assessment ensures that the persons making judgments about the program are competent to make the decisions relating to the quality of the program. NIBHQ accreditation is unique to a particular program. There is no relationship or ranking to other programs. What matters most is that a program meets the high standards of accreditation.

NIBHQ accreditation provides assurances that programs meet standards developed by a consensus of professional practitioners. This ensures that stakeholders, licensing bodies, and others can be reasonably assured that NIBHQ accredited programs provide a quality education in training behavioral health care professionals.

NIBHQ accreditation provides recognition that the content and quality of the education offered by a program has been evaluated extensively and meets standards established by and for the profession. Students and their families can be assured that appropriate knowledge and skills areas are at the kernel of the course of study that are necessary for entry into the chosen profession. An ancillary benefit is the protection of the consumer of services provided by graduates of NIBHQ accredited programs.