Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)

Executive Director: Frank M. Yamada

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PROFILE OF ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION

Accreditor types: Institutional
Recognition Status: Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education
Range of Accreditation Activity: Accredits free-standing seminaries and academic units of larger institutions in the United States and Canada that offer post-baccalaureate degrees in professional and academic theological education. (2015)
International Accreditation Activity:
34 Non-U.S. institutions or programs operating outside the U.S.
16 U.S. institutions or programs operating outside the U.S.
Yes Organization evaluates credentials or degrees from outside the U.S.
Program Countries
- Germany
- Guatemala
- South Korea
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Brazil
- United Kingdom
- Romania
- Argentina
- Ukraine
- Kenya
- Russia
- Poland
- Spain
- Hong Kong SAR China
- Thailand

Sponsoring Organization: Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. ATS shares its facility and some support services with the Commission, but they operate separately and independently.
Composition of Decision-Making Body:
A 20-member Board of Commissioners composed of 5 public members, 5 faculty members, 7 academic deans, 1 librarian, 2 chief financial officers (one of whom is also a public member), and one president.

1,402,100 Operating Budget for Accrediting Unit Only
n/a Direct support from any sponsoring organization
n/a In-kind support from any sponsoring organization

Employees: 7 Full-time 6 Part-time
Volunteers: 126 - served 2020-2021

PROFILE OF ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS

223 Accredited U.S and non-U.S. Institutions
223 Degree-Granting:
- n/a Public
- 223 Private Nonprofit
- n/a Private For-Profit
n/a Non-Degree-Granting:
- n/a Public
- n/a Private Nonprofit
- n/a Private For-Profit

78,635 Students

PROFILE OF ACCREDITATION ACTIVITIES

Frequency of Comprehensive Reviews and Required Follow-Up: Maximum of 10 years for reaffirmation of accreditation and 7 years for initial accreditation.
Frequency of Comprehensive Review of Accreditation Standards: Every five years (most recently in 2018-2020, resulting in a comprehensive redevelopment of the accrediting standards, approved by the membership in June 2020).

Summary of Formal Actions 2020-2021
- 3 Initial Candidacy or Preaccreditation Granted
- 0 Initial Candidacy or Preaccreditation Denied
- 4 Initial Accreditation Granted
- 0 Initial Accreditation Denied
- 0 Accreditation Continued Following Comprehensive Review
- 25 Accreditation Continued Following Comprehensive Review with Required Follow-up
- 6 Notice of Warning
- 0 Probation
- 0 Show Cause
- 0 Accreditation Terminated or Removed
- 0 Actions under Appeal
- 0 Other

Summary of Additional Actions
151 Substantive Changes Reviewed

38 Site Visits

3 Voluntary Discontinuance or Expiration of Accreditation