

UNDERSTANDING ACCREDITATION

Basic Concerns

Most students who desire ministerial or Bible education are concerned with accreditation, and if their diploma or degree would be accepted nationally. The concern is a *valid one*. Accreditation is a way the student knows that a school's program of studies has been recognized by an association of higher standards than themselves. There arises misunderstanding in the accrediting criteria because students are misled with varied interpretations on what accreditation really means. At NYCFGTS we like to briefly explain what accreditation is, whereby you the student can make the proper choice.

Regional and National Accreditation Through The Department of Education (DOE) – US Government.

Regional agencies and associations which are listed by the DOE to govern the criteria for accredited programs, approved national credit or for degree granting fall into several categories.

1. There are six regional accrediting agencies in the US – known as regional accrediting which provide accreditation for schools, colleges and universities. These agencies work in geographical areas through out the USA. They are private corporations with DOE acceptance to govern education standards.
2. At present there are three associations which have permission by the DOE to regulate standards necessary for religious institutions in the USA to grant credit and degree approval.
3. Regional and National recognized agencies offer standards and policies for institution's meeting government authorization and basically set up their own standards for approval for its members. There are many excellent institutions both secular or religious who have such accreditation with.
4. Generally schools who have DOE accreditation are able to offer its students the eligibility for Federal grants and loans.

Some Basic Facts

1. There is no such regulation for Federal or State accreditation for Religious institutions who train students in religious and ministry programs. The government does not want to regulate religious education leading to certificate, diploma or degree, especially for ministerial education. If this were the case, our constitutional rights would be taken from us – based on “Separation of Church and State”. Although the DOE has granted approval of a few associations to regulate itself and its religious affiliates, these groups in some sense are subject to governmental oversight themselves.
2. If a student desires regional recognition by a Federal agency in regard to their personal carrier choice or for State or Federal licensing, or for particular professional certification such as - Teacher or Counselor in secular positions they should seek such traditional accreditation approved by the DOE.
3. Accreditation is a *voluntary* decision especially for religious institutions. For this reason many private Christian schools elect not to be under regulations governed by the government and its agencies. They chose their religious freedom and elect to be governed by their faith based and biblical beliefs.
4. If students seek traditional accreditation approval they must understand that institutions offering such accrediting would be more expensive than non-traditional faith based institutes. Therefore the student makes a choice depending on their own need for training and how they seek carrier choices.
5. Federal or State law does not regulate churches or schools with regard to certifying, or licensing and ordaining Christian workers or ministers. This remains the sole purpose of the Church. There are no rules of accreditation necessary for issuing such clergy credentials. If a student seeks credentials from a denomination or ministerial association which requires Accreditation from a DOE approved accrediting agency – they should seek an institution with those qualifications. Generally, most Church organizations accept private independent accreditation from associations which grant credit for religious institutions, and there are several in the USA that do so.

Non-Traditional Religious Accreditation and Accountability

Because accreditation is to provided educational institutes the ability to determine the acceptance of credits from other institutions, and degree’s, the accrediting process becomes in itself a governance unto its own. For religious institutions – they may keep their faith based beliefs, biblical standards and doctrine and yet chose to join with many institutions who participate in private Christian accreditation for accountability.

In many cases institutions who chose accreditation from private independent ecclesiastical associations have been accepted by regional accrediting groups and their institutions.

Because NYCFGTS has been established as a Church-Seminary organization to train and equip men and women for the ministry – offering credentials for its graduates, and striving to keep our religious faith based doctrine, we decided to become a member of an independent – national Christian accrediting commission. Belonging to an independent Christian based accrediting group, offers our students accountability, academic and organizational creditability, mutual faith based relations, opportunity to net-work, transfer of credits with other institutions and Christian professionalism.

NYCFGTS strives to keep ecclesiastical endorsement with all Church groups, Christian schools and colleges, and Church organizations – offering its members independent accreditation in Christian applied standards.

What About NYCFGTS – Accountability and Accrediting?

Federal Government

NYCFGTS is recognized by the Government of the United States as a religious organization under its 501 (c) (3) religious charter.

State Government

NYCFGTS is registered with the State of New York and Florida, Division of Corporations as a religious organization.

NYCFGTS is registered with the Florida Department of Education – exempt status as a religious institution under 1005 (1) (f) which allows degree granting under religious heading.

NATIONAL

NYCFGTS is a member of the **Transworld Accrediting Commission International** – an independent Christian association for schools, colleges and seminaries.

Please see our site for other affiliates and endorsements of NYCFGTS.