

Accreditation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary system of self-regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness. The ACCJC accreditation process provides assurance to the public that the accredited member colleges meet the Standards; the education earned at the institutions is of value to the student who earned it; and employers, trade or profession-related licensing agencies, and other colleges and universities can accept a student's credential as legitimate. <<http://www.accjc.org>>

Who accredits the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center?

DLIFLC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, 415.506.0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

There are six geographic regions under the U.S. system recognized by the federal government. Within each region, an accreditor is responsible for designated types of higher education institutions and the types of credentials offered at those institutions. There are other kinds of accreditation (national, programmatic) but regional accreditation status is regarded as the most comprehensive and rigorous for institutions to attain.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC) is part of the Western region. The Western region has two higher education accreditors: the WASC Senior College and University Commission, and the ACCJC. The two Western region accreditors operate in California, Hawai'i and the Pacific Region that includes Guam, American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. Five other regional accreditors operate in and have names associated with other geographic regions of the United States.

Why does the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center need to be accredited?

In October 2001, the U.S. Congress gave the DLIFLC federal authority to grant an Associate of Arts in Foreign Language (AA/FL) degree. With the approval of the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the DLIFLC first began awarding associate degrees in May 2002 and to date has granted over 11,500 AA degrees.