



International Accreditation and Certification Options for Educational Institutions

Presented by:







Dodjie S. Maestrecampo, Ph.D.

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ACCREDITATION ORIENTATION

FRAMEWORK		PRIMARY FOCUS	RECOGNITION FOCUS
Program-Based	 ABET	Global engineering/computing program accreditation	Outcomes-based education (OBE), student competencies, continuous improvement, industry relevance
	 PTC-ACBET	Philippine engineering accreditation aligned with Washington Accord	OBE implementation, curriculum relevance, graduate attributes, local industry alignment
	 AUN-QA	ASEAN regional academic quality benchmark	Holistic curriculum, teaching-learning, support systems, QA culture
Institution-Based	 ISO 9001	General quality management standard	Process consistency, risk-based thinking, documentation
	 ISO 21001	Quality management for educational organizations	Learner satisfaction, teaching-learning quality, educational leadership
	 QS Stars	Global institutional rating system assessing overall university performance	Teaching quality, employability, internationalization, facilities, inclusivity, research environment, student experience

COMPARATIVE ACCREDITATION & RATINGS MATRIX

I. Learning Outcomes & Competency Standards

Criteria	ABET	PTC-ACBET	ISO 9001	ISO 21001	AUN-QA	QS Ratings
Defined and measurable learning outcomes	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓	▲
Graduate competency attainment	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	▲	✓✓	✓✓	▲ (employability)
Alignment with industry/professional bodies	✓✓	✓✓✓	▲	▲	✓	▲

II. Curriculum Design, Relevance, and Review

Criteria	ABET	PTC-ACBET	ISO 9001	ISO 21001	AUN-QA	QS Ratings
Curriculum structure and coherence	✓✓	✓✓✓	—	▲	✓✓✓	▲
Industry relevance and responsiveness	✓✓	✓✓✓	—	▲	✓	✓ (partnership indicators)
Regular curriculum review cycle	✓✓	✓✓	▲	▲	✓✓✓	▲

III. Teaching–Learning Process and Faculty Quality

Criteria	ABET	PTC-ACBET	ISO 9001	ISO 21001	AUN-QA	QS Ratings
Pedagogy, active learning, and delivery	▲	▲	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Faculty qualifications & development	✓✓	✓✓	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Learning environment	▲	▲	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓ (student experience)

Legend:

✓ Strong Emphasis ▲ Moderate Emphasis — Not Emphasized



COMPARATIVE ACCREDITATION & RATINGS MATRIX

IV. Student Assessment, CQI, and Quality Assurance Systems

Criteria	ABET	PTC-ACBET	ISO 9001	ISO 21001	AUN-QA	QS Ratings
Assessment aligned to learning outcomes	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	▲
Continuous quality improvement (CQI)	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	▲
Documentation, internal audit culture	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	▲

V. Student Support, Stakeholder Engagement, Industry Linkages

Criteria	ABET	PTC-ACBET	ISO 9001	ISO 21001	AUN-QA	QS Ratings
Student support services	▲	▲	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓ (student services rating)
Stakeholder feedback (students, alumni, employers)	▲	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Industry advisory boards / partnerships	✓✓	✓✓✓	—	▲	▲	✓✓ (employer reputation)

VI. Governance, Management, Resources, Facilities

Criteria	ABET	PTC-ACBET	ISO 9001	ISO 21001	AUN-QA	QS Ratings
Leadership and governance	▲	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Risk-based management	▲	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓	▲	—
Resources, facilities, learning spaces	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	▲	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓

Legend:

✓ Strong Emphasis ▲ Moderate Emphasis — Not Emphasized



SUMMARY COMPARATIVE MATRIX

Framework	Outcomes	Curriculum	Teaching	QA Systems	Support	Governance	Facilities
ABET	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★★★
PTC-ACBET	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★★★
ISO 9001	★	★	★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★
ISO 21001	★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★
AUN-QA	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
QS Ratings	★★	★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★








Legend (Color by Strength)

★★★★★ = Very Strong ★★★★ = Strong ★★★ = Moderate ★★ = Limited ★ = Minimal

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ON ACCREDITATION

1. Philippine HEIs must balance **global accreditation** (ABET/AUN-QA) with **internal QA** (ISO 9001/21001). The strongest institutions use multiple frameworks simultaneously.
2. ABET and PTC-ACBET matter for **employability** and **international mobility**.
3. ISO 21001 is becoming essential for institutions with **multiple campuses or online programs**.
4. AUN-QA is the **most holistic** academic QA framework available to the Philippines.
5. QS Ratings give **visibility and branding**—important for recruitment and reputation.
6. Philippine HEIs should aim for a **“3-Pillar QA Portfolio”**:
 - a) **Program Excellence** – ABET / PTC-ACBET / AUN-QA (Program Level)
 - b) **Institutional System Excellence** – ISO 9001 / ISO 21001 / AUN-QA (Institution Level)
 - c) **Global Visibility** – QS Stars Ratings
7. For Philippine universities with **limited resources**, AUN-QA is the best starting point.
8. For highly **technical institutions** (engineering, computing), ABET/PTC-ACBET remain the **benchmark**.

RANKINGS ORIENTATION

RANKINGS	ORIENTATION	WHAT IT REWARDS	FAVORED INSTITUTIONS
 ARWU	Research prestige	Nobel/Fields, high citation researchers, N&S papers	Large, research-heavy, long-established universities
 QS WUR	Reputation + research + global outlook	Surveys, citations, international faculty and students	Internationally recognized, reputable institutions with strong visibility
 THE WUR	Balanced performance	Teaching, research, citations, industry	Balanced, research-active universities with strong knowledge transfer
 WURI	Innovation + societal impact	Startups, crisis management, creative programs	Agile, entrepreneurial, socially engaged, future-oriented universities
 THE IMPACT	SDG performance	Policies, research, outreach, partnerships	Universities strong in outreach, policy alignment, and SDG programs
 QS SUSTAINABILITY	Environment + social + governance	Climate action, equity, transparency	Universities with strong environmental, social, and transparency initiatives
 UI GREENMETRIC	Green campus operations	Energy, waste, water, transport, land use	Universities investing in green infrastructure and operational sustainability

COMPARATIVE RANKING MATRIX

I. Research Strength & Scholarly Output

Cluster	ARWU	QS	THE	WURI	THE Impact	QS Sustainability	UI GreenMetric
Research Volume (papers, productivity)	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	—	▲	▲	—
Citations & Research Influence	✓✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓✓	—	▲	▲	—
Awards & Prestige (Nobel/ Fields/ HiCi)	✓✓✓✓ ✓	—	▲	—	—	—	—

II. Teaching Quality, Learning Environment & Faculty

Cluster	ARWU	QS	THE	WURI	THE Impact	QS Sustainability	UI GreenMetric
Teaching Quality	—	✓	✓✓✓	▲	▲	▲	▲
Faculty Credentials & Resources	▲	✓	✓✓	▲	▲	▲	▲
Learning Environment Quality	—	▲	✓✓	▲	✓	▲	▲

Legend:

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COMPARATIVE RANKING MATRIX

III. Internationalization & Global Engagement

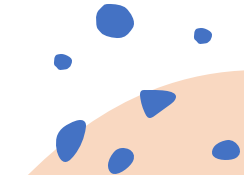
Cluster	ARWU	QS	THE	WURI	THE Impact	QS Sustainability	UI GreenMetric
International Students / Faculty	—	✓✓	✓✓	▲	▲	▲	—
International Collaboration	—	✓	✓✓	▲	▲	▲	—

IV. Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Creativity

Cluster	ARWU	QS	THE	WURI	THE Impact	QS Sustainability	UI GreenMetric
Innovation Performance	—	▲	▲	✓✓✓✓ ✓	▲	▲	▲
Entrepreneurship & Startups	—	▲	▲	✓✓✓✓	▲	▲	▲
Crisis & Change Management	—	—	—	✓✓✓✓	▲	▲	▲

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COMPARATIVE RANKING MATRIX

V. Societal Impact, SDGs, Community Engagement

Cluster	ARWU	QS	THE	WURI	THE Impact	QS Sustainability	UI GreenMetric
SDG Alignment & Policy	—	▲	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓✓ ✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Community Engagement & Social Impact	—	▲	✓	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓ ✓	✓✓	✓
Partnerships for Impact	—	▲	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓ ✓	✓✓	✓

VI. Environmental Responsibility & Campus Sustainability

Cluster	ARWU	QS	THE	WURI	THE Impact	QS Sustainability	UI GreenMetric
Environmental Footprint	—	—	▲	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓✓ ✓	✓✓✓✓ ✓
Climate Action / Energy	—	—	▲	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓ ✓
Waste, Water, Transport Management	—	—	—	—	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓ ✓

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COMPARATIVE RANKING MATRIX

VII. Governance, Ethics, Transparency & Institutional Policy

Cluster	ARWU	QS	THE	WURI	THE Impact	QS Sustainability	UI GreenMetric
Institutional Governance	—	▲	▲	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓	▲
Ethics & Accountability	—	▲	▲	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓	▲
Policy & Leadership Alignment	—	▲	▲	▲	✓✓	✓✓✓	▲

VIII. Infrastructure, Facilities & Campus Environment

Cluster	ARWU	QS	THE	WURI	THE Impact	QS Sustainability	UI GreenMetric
Facilities & Services	—	▲ (QS Stars)	▲	—	▲	▲	✓✓✓
Green Campus Operations	—	—	—	▲	▲	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓

Legend:

✓ Strong Emphasis ▲ Moderate Emphasis — Not Emphasized



SUMMARY COMPARATIVE MATRIX

Framework	Research Output	Citations	Teaching	Reputation	Inter-nationalization	Innovation	Social Impact / SDGs	Sustainability / Operations
ARWU	★★★★★	★★★★★	★	★★	★	★	★	★
QS WUR	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★	★
THE WUR	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★	★★
WURI	★	★	★★	★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★
THE Impact	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★
QS Sustainability	★★	★★	★★	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
UI GreenMetric	★	★	★	★	★	★★	★★★	★★★★★

Legend (Color by Strength)

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KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PHILIPPINE HEIs ON GLOBAL RANKINGS

1. There is **no single “best” ranking system** — they measure different kinds of excellence.
2. Philippine HEIs can **compete strongly** in impact, innovation, SDGs, and sustainability.
3. Research-centric rankings (QS, THE, ARWU) **require long-term investment**.
4. Innovation rankings (WURI) are **more accessible and aligned with Philippine context**.
5. SDG and Sustainability rankings are powerful tools for **nation-building-and globally valued**.
6. Rankings are **strategic communication tools**, not just scorecards.
7. HEIs should align ranking goals to **institutional type**.
8. Philippine HEIs should pursue a balanced **3-Pillar Ranking Portfolio**.
Pillar 1: Research & Reputation, **Pillar 2:** Innovation & Future Skills, **Pillar 3:** Impact & Sustainability
9. Choose rankings that **reinforce institutional identity**.
10. The goal is **not to be #1** — but to be visible, credible, and globally aligned.

Building **globally recognized**, future-ready Philippine institutions **requires more than compliance**.
It requires **strategic alignment**—choosing the right accreditations, certifications, and ranking systems that best advance each institution's mission, strengths, and identity.

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