



# International Accreditation and Certification Options for Educational Institutions

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# ACCREDITATION ORIENTATION

	FRAMEWORK	PRIMARY FOCUS	RECOGNITION FOCUS
Program-Based	 <b>ABET</b>	Global engineering/computing program accreditation	Outcomes-based education (OBE), student competencies, continuous improvement, industry relevance
	 <b>PTC-ACBET</b>	Philippine engineering accreditation aligned with Washington Accord	OBE implementation, curriculum relevance, graduate attributes, local industry alignment
Institution-Based	 <b>AUN-QA</b>	ASEAN regional academic quality benchmark	Holistic curriculum, teaching-learning, support systems, QA culture
	 <b>ISO 9001</b>	General quality management standard	Process consistency, risk-based thinking, documentation
	 <b>ISO 21001</b>	Quality management for educational organizations	Learner satisfaction, teaching-learning quality, educational leadership
	 <b>QS Stars</b>	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	
 ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES SINCE 2003	<b>ARWU</b>	Research prestige	Nobel/Fields, high citation researchers, N&S papers	Large, research-heavy, long-established universities
 QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS	<b>QS WUR</b>	Reputation + research + global outlook	Surveys, citations, international faculty and students	Internationally recognized, reputable institutions with strong visibility
 THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS	<b>THE WUR</b>	Balanced performance	Teaching, research, citations, industry	Balanced, research-active universities with strong knowledge transfer
 The WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS for INNOVATION	<b>WURI</b>	Innovation + societal impact	Startups, crisis management, creative programs	Agile, entrepreneurial, socially engaged, future-oriented universities
 THE IMPACT RANKINGS	<b>THE IMPACT</b>	SDG performance	Policies, research, outreach, partnerships	Universities strong in outreach, policy alignment, and SDG programs
 QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS SUSTAINABILITY RANKINGS	<b>QS SUSTAINABILITY</b>	Environment + social + governance	Climate action, equity, transparency	Universities with strong environmental, social, and transparency initiatives
 Green Metric World University Rankings	<b>UI GREENMETRIC</b>	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:

✓ Strong Emphasis ▲ Moderate Emphasis — Not Emphasized

# 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	—	—	—	✓✓✓✓✓	▲	▲	▲

### Legend:

✓ Strong Emphasis ▲ Moderate Emphasis — Not Emphasized

# 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	—	—	—	—	▲	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓

### Legend:

✓ Strong Emphasis ▲ Moderate Emphasis — Not Emphasized

# 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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