

Facility Management Accreditation Commission (FMAC)
IFMA Foundation
Accredited Degree Program (ADP)

Why Accreditation Matters to Academic Programs, Institutions, Students and Industry

Accreditation:

Accreditation is a voluntary process of quality assurance used by universities and institutions designed primarily to distinguish schools adhering to a defined set of rigorous educational / academic standards. The accreditation process is also known in terms of its ability to effectively drive student performance and continuous improvement in education. While accreditation is a set of rigorous protocols and research-based processes for evaluating an institution's organizational effectiveness, it also takes into consideration the programs, cultural context and the community of stakeholders to determine how well the parts work together to meet the needs of students and the public.

FMAC Accreditation:

The purpose of the Facility Management Accreditation Commission (FMAC) Accredited Degree Program (ADP) process is to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the field of facility management (FM). The International Facility Management Association (IFMA) and the IFMA Foundation have sponsored the development of the FMAC and the ADP programs, along with vigorously supporting the educational needs of current and future IFMA members as well as non-member FM professionals.

The goals of the "FMAC ADP's" are to:

1. Offer a means to strengthen existing facility management degree programs;
2. Serve as a guide for developing new facility management degree programs;
3. Provide standards for accrediting new programs and reaccrediting existing programs;
4. Establish a minimum academic education level that graduates of ADP FM programs are expected to achieve; and
5. Provide the demanding and challenging FM industry graduates that have acquired skills, competencies and knowledge at a high level that will positively impact their organizations.

Benefits for Students:

Earning a degree is a significant achievement and an important investment in a student's future. Since so much of a student's professional success depends on academic achievement, the quality of education makes a big difference. Accreditation assures students that the FM program they are seeking their degree from is following strict guidelines and the institution has chosen to maintain higher level academic standards.

Earning a FMAC ADP FM degree:

1. Verifies that the quality of educational experience received meets a defined academic standard and quality of the FM profession.
2. Increases and enhances employment and internship opportunities
3. Supports an FM graduate entry to IFMA Certification (FMP, SFP and CFM)

4. Helps potential FM students quickly recognize those programs that meet accreditation standards
5. Allows students to be recognized as being associated with an FM program that has meet a higher level academic standard.

Benefits for Employers Seeking Graduates and Internship Candidates:

Each year more employers are requesting information, guidance and direction as to where and how they can hire FM Students from ADP institutions. These employers recognized that students from ADP institutions are being taught to a level that is focused around sound FM skills, competencies and knowledge. Employers are asking the FMAC how to increase the number of graduates from ADP institutions. Currently, there are more jobs & internship openings than there are students from ADP programs.

The benefits for employers are:

1. Employers know ADP students will have established and recognized FM skills, competencies and knowledge
2. Typically ADP students are very connected to the IFMA organization and have a sound network of FM professional contacts
3. ADP students are well aware of the current FM practices and many of the students bring new concepts and process to the employer organizations to implement.
4. In most cases the ADP FM students adapt to the hiring organization and add value quickly

Benefits for Academic Institutions are:

Academic institutions that provide FM accreditation demonstrate they are committed to maintaining their FM program, the program's quality and periodically updating the FM program to meet the changing FM needs. The results provides lasting benefits to the students, the institution, employers and the professional industry.

Those academic Institutions that are FMAC Accredited recognize the following:

1. Potential FM students are requesting information regarding "Accredited" degree programs.
2. Savvy employers are looking for students that have more qualities and amenities with their degrees. Accreditation is very favorable.
3. Students that graduate from an ADP feel they have learned at a more rigorous level than their non-accredited counterparts.
4. ADP institutions are able to advertise and market their programs within the IFMA network and other FM associations and have an instant network of professionals
5. The IFMA Global connection of 25,000 members allows institutions to market their FM programs (seeking students, potential internships and jobs) in a much wider region.
6. Students from Global locations are seeking FM education and are willing to travel to obtain a good education and career advancement.
7. Global organizations are seeking students that are willing to work in a global environment.
8. IFMA professional members are very interested in ADP institutions, students and FM programs. Institutions have connected with experts in the FM field through the ADP process.

9. Currently, the FMAC has 30 ADP programs and looks to double this number in the next 3 to 4 years. There is a growing global interest and desire from higher level academic institutions to become accredited.

Benefits of IFMA Foundation FMAC Accreditation:

The IFMA Foundation, IFMA, the FMAC and the IFMA members and associates regard the FM ADP program as the “Crown Jewells” of the industry. Being able to impact the future of FM through the development and ongoing maintenance of FM education at the higher level academic institutions is one of the most critical initiatives the IFMA Foundation supports year in and year out. Increasing the number of FM graduates from ADP’s to meet the growing demand and improving the level of outcome is our major concern.

The FMAC and the IFMA Foundation supports the following:

1. Marketing of the program in the IFMA / IFMA Foundation system. Over 25,000 members, not to mention potential students that are continuously reviewing the IFMA / IFMA Foundation websites.
2. Access to the IFMA / IFMA Foundation website, white papers, networking etc.
3. ADP Academic institutions receive 1 complementary academic membership to the IFMA organization
4. Shared booth space at World Workplace, Facility Fusion and other IFMA sponsored event. This is a IFMA Foundation sponsored; ADP booth
5. An ADP “student” roundtable that occurs at the annual World Workplace event
6. Special ADP student and faculty/staff rates for attending the World Workplace, Facility Fusion and other IFMA sponsored events
7. Special discounts for a single sponsored ADP booth (for your institution only) at World Workplace, Facility Fusion and other IFMA Sponsored events
8. Many cases the ADP students are offered reduced rate for IFMA membership at their local IFMA Chapter
9. ADP Student are recognized at the World Workplace, Facility Fusion and other IFMA Sponsored event each year.
10. Academics connected to interested FM professionals seeking direction and guidance in FM topics. This allows for an opportunity for academics to publish research and topical white papers.