



Why Facility Management Registered Degree Programs (RDP) Matter to Academic Institutions, Students and Industry

There is a lack of trained Facility Management (FM) professionals entering the workforce. The average age of a facility manager is 49 years and 50% will retire in the next 5 to 15 years. There are approximately 4,000 students graduating per year from FM accredited degree programs, yet the demand is five times higher. The mission of the IFMA Foundation is to “Make FM a Career of Choice” and fill the looming talent gap by working with academic institutions to grow the number of students entering the FM workforce.

For over 20 years, the IFMA Foundation has served as the global accrediting body for the Facility Management Accredited Degree Programs (ADP), setting the academic standards and criteria for college and university programs which offer associate, bachelor, master and post-graduate degrees through its Facility Management Accreditation Commission (FMAC).

The IFMA Foundation recently introduced the Registered Degree Program (RDP) to allow educational institutions to give college academic certificates that equip graduates with the core competencies of facility management. This coursework will provide the education needed for students to move right into the workplace. The RDP will create a continuum that will lead to the creation of new facility management Accredited Degree Programs and fill the much-needed workforce in FM.

This document outlines the benefits of FM Registered Degree Programs for academic institutions, students and industry.

FMAC Accreditation:

The purpose of the IFMA Foundation Facility Management Accreditation Commission (FMAC) Registered Degree Program (RDP) process is to promote excellence in education 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 RDP 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 Registered Degree Programs are to:

1. Offer a means to strengthen existing facility management degree programs;
2. Serve as a guide for developing new facility management registered degree programs;
3. Provide standards for accrediting new programs and reaccrediting existing programs;
4. Establish a minimum academic education level that graduates of RDP 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 Academic Institutions are:

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 to meet the growing demand and improving the level of outcome is our major concern. 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 industry needs. The results provide lasting benefits to the students, the institution, employers and the professional industry.

Those academic institutions that are FMAC Registered realize the following:

1. RDP institutions advertise and market their programs within the IFMA network and other FM associations and have an instant network of professionals
2. 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.
3. New RDPs are advertised through a press release and recognized on-stage at the Annual IFMA World Workplace Conference
4. RDP programs are listed on the IFMA Foundation website, annual report, brochures, presentations and in the IFMA Foundation FM Academic Registry where students and IFMA members seek academic programs in FM.
<https://fmacademicregistry.org/>
5. Access to the IFMA / IFMA Foundation website, white papers, networking etc.
6. Shared booth space at World Workplace, Facility Fusion and other IFMA sponsored event. This is an IFMA Foundation sponsored booth
7. Special student and faculty/staff rates for attending the World Workplace, Facility Fusion and other IFMA sponsored events
8. Special discounts for a single sponsored booth (for your institution only) at World Workplace, Facility Fusion and other IFMA Sponsored events
9. In many cases the RDP students are offered reduced rate for IFMA membership at their local IFMA Chapter
10. Students are recognized at the World Workplace, Facility Fusion and other IFMA Sponsored event each year.
11. 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.
12. RDPs are favorable among employers and IFMA Foundation Global Workforce Initiative Advisors who are looking for students that have more qualities and amenities with their degrees and academic certificates.



13. Students that graduate from an RDP feel they have learned at a more rigorous level than their non-Registered counterparts.
14. Students from global locations are seeking FM education either virtually and/or are willing to travel to obtain a good education and career advancement.
15. IFMA professional members are very interested in RDP institutions, students and FM programs.

Benefits for Students are:

Earning a degree or an academic certificate 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. Becoming a Registered Program 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.

An RDP Program:

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 meets a higher-level academic standard.
6. RDP students are eligible to apply for an IFMA Foundation scholarship

Benefits for Employers Seeking Graduates and Internship Candidates are:

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

The benefits for employers are:

1. Employers know RDP students will have established and recognized FM skills, competencies and knowledge
2. Typically, FM students are very connected to the IFMA organization and have a sound network of FM professional contacts
3. FM 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 FM students adapt to the hiring organization and adds value quickly.