

HLC Fact of the Week:
**“What is the Difference Between Institutional
and Specialized (Disciplinary) Accreditation?”**
(June 2, 2017)

It is important to distinguish between institutional (regional) accreditation and specialized (disciplinary accreditation). Here are the differences:

- Institutional accreditation by regional accrediting bodies such as the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) involves accreditation of the institution as a whole
- HLC does not accredit specific degree programs
- Specialized (disciplinary) accreditation involves accreditation of a specific academic degree program
- Specialized accreditation is granted by any one of a number of accrediting bodies (e.g., Council on Social Work Education; Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education)

Lindenwood is accredited by HLC (institutional/regional accreditation) and it has a number of programs that have achieved specialized accreditation (see [accreditation webpage](#)).

To learn more about accreditation and Lindenwood’s comprehensive evaluation and site visit scheduled for November 6-7, 2017, and to see the countdown clock to the visit, go to the HLC page on the Lindenwood website here: <http://www.lindenwood.edu/about/higher-learning-commission/>.

Past HLC Facts of the Week are archived [here](#).

Questions? Contact David Wilson, Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness, at DWilson@lindenwood.edu or x4737.