A paralegal program must be offered by an institution that is accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the Standing Committee on Paralegals. The Standing Committee maintains a list of acceptable accrediting agencies. This list at present includes the six regional accrediting agencies, two accrediting agencies that work primarily with smaller institutions offering business and other career-oriented programs, and one local accrediting agency. The approved agencies are:

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- Higher Learning Commission
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Schools
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges
- Council on Occupational Education
- New York State Board of Regents

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Technical Correction July 6, 2017; Technical Corrections October 16, 2017
CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES UNDER G-303(c)

1. The accrediting agency must be approved by the United States Department of Education.

2. The accrediting agency must be either regional or national in scope.

3. The accrediting agency must accredit whole institutions, not specialized programs within institutions, i.e., general institutional accreditation as opposed to specialized programmatic accreditation.

4. The accrediting agency’s standards must be established for the purpose of assessing general educational quality and institutional strength and stability.

5. The accrediting agency’s practices and procedures must have a rigorous form of evaluation that includes documented self-evaluation and peer evaluation with periodic comprehensive visits to the institutions it accredits.

6. The accrediting agency must itself demonstrate stability and consistency in its work over time.

Approved by the ABA Approval Commission, May 2-3, 1997

Approved by the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistants, May 30-31, 1997.

Technical Corrections January 13, 2010

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools no longer an approved Accrediting Agency for purposes of ABA approval – Approved by the Standing Committee on Paralegals March 17, 2017