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. The approved agencies are:

Middle States Commission on Higher Education
New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly 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
Distance Education Accrediting Commission
Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools
CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES UNDER G-303(e)

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

Distance Education Accrediting Commission and Accrediting Counsel for Continuing Education and Training added as approved Accrediting Agencies for purposes of ABA approval – Approved by the Standing Committee on Paralegals March 2, 2018

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools added as approved Accrediting Agency for purposes of ABA approval – Approved by the Standing Committee on Paralegals, June 22, 2018