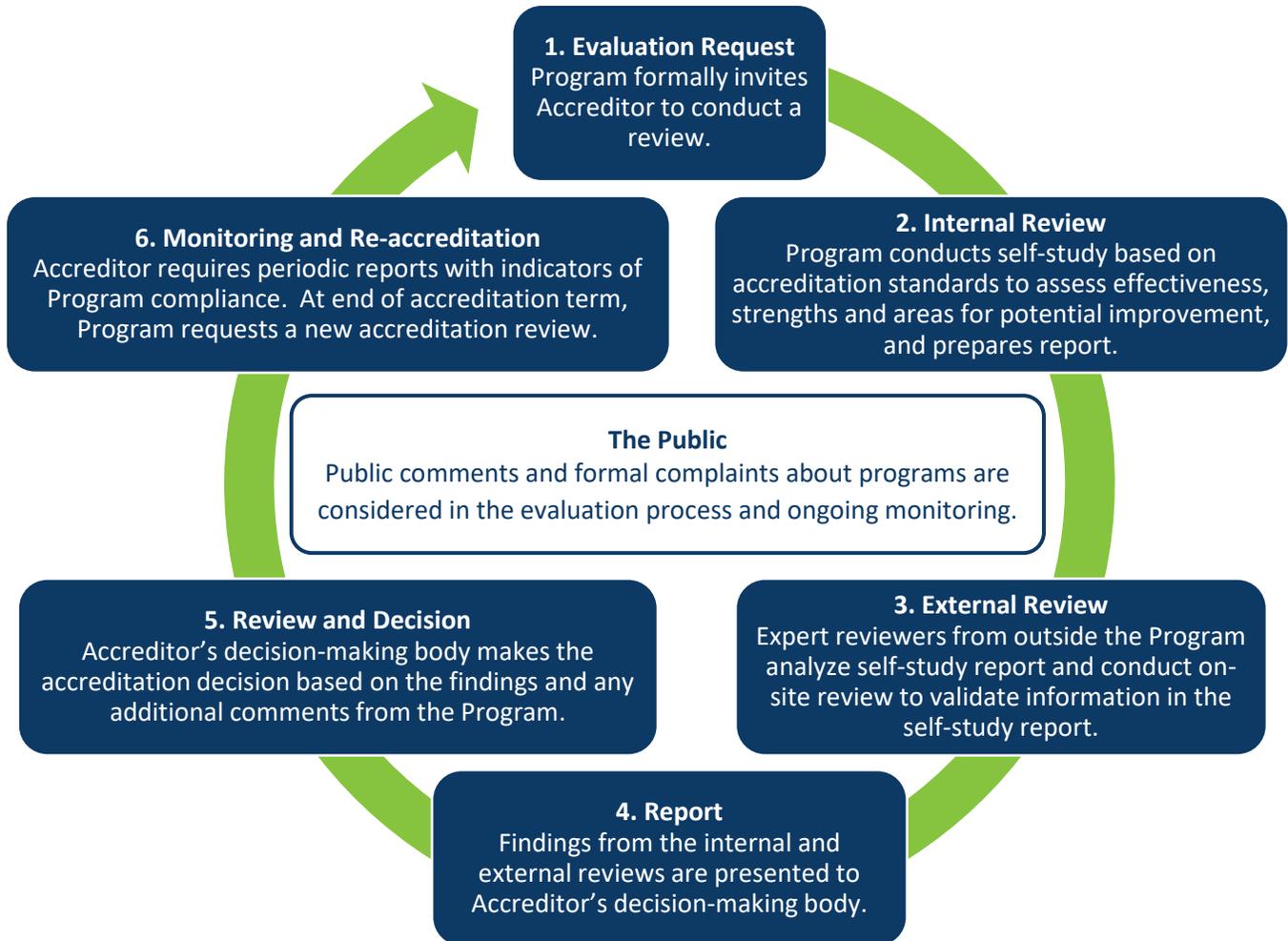




Who/What/Why? Higher education programs in colleges and universities that are committed to quality performance undergo an intensive review by subject matter experts against standards established by the profession (e.g. nursing, architecture):



Who sets accreditation standards? Designed to protect the public interest, standards are developed in collaboration with educators, students, practitioners, employers and the general public. To promote accuracy, fairness and integrity, the accreditation process includes systems of checks and balances, documentation of compliance and opportunities for program response to evaluation results.

What do accreditors review? Accreditors review program outcomes that demonstrate students have the appropriate skills for employment and student learning consistent with the program mission. Also examined are various inputs that contribute to achieving those outcomes: curriculum, financial and learning resources, that the educational environment is effective for the program mission, faculty qualifications, and student support services.

Accreditation assures that students who complete higher education programs have essential skills for professional practice.

How long does accreditation last? Programs are monitored throughout the accreditation term (for example: 7 – 10 years) to ensure quality standards are maintained. Re-accreditation reviews are done at the end of the accreditation term. Moreover, standards are continuously improved through input from practitioners, educators, employers and other communities of interest. If there are complaints or problems that need to be addressed, the program or institution must resolve these quickly. Programs that fail to meet requirements will have accreditation withdrawn.