Category: Accreditation

What is accreditation?
Accreditation is a voluntary method of standard assurance to demonstrate educational quality and depth of programming offered by a company or institution.

Who can become accredited? What types of organizations can become accredited?
Over time and history, education has rapidly changed. Today, there are all kinds of “schools” such as public and private schools and colleges, online schools (SNHU, for example), vocational, post-secondary (bootcamps), experiential (Outward Bound), travel-study (Study-abroad programs), and education corporate schools (Apex Learning Group, Education First, the NSLS, etc.) that serve students from all walks of life. What hasn’t changed is the definition of high-quality education and no matter the type of school, those that accomplish accreditation can be assured that deep and engaging curriculum is present, instructional methodologies are unique and serving all students, and assessments are the driver towards quality evaluation and impact.

What does accreditation mean to us?
We are accredited. This commitment to accreditation assures Advisors, Chapter Leaders, and Members or parents and the national education community that our institution is focused on raising student achievement, providing an engaging and enriching learning environment, and maintaining an efficient and effective learning program that builds leaders who make a better world.

From Cognia: “Congratulations! We are pleased to inform that your Cognia Accreditation Engagement Review Report has received final approval by the Cognia Global Commission.”

What are the benefits of a partnership with NSLS - an accredited institution?
• Qualified instructors as part of our Education Team and staff who are continually working to improve their practices and teaching methods in order to increase student performance
• Access to a rich, diverse, and sound curriculum
• Access to a range of learning activities and instruction that is engaging and diverse to learner needs and styles
• Rich and dynamic assessments that gauge a learner’s development of knowledge, skills, and disposition of leadership development
• Transferability of credits from school to school or accredited organization to school

The course credits that students earn through an accredited program are recognized by schools, colleges, and universities globally. Through our global accreditation agreements with the accrediting organization, students can be rest assured their credits will transfer to their local campuses.
Who are we accredited by?
This past November, we were visited by members from Cognia, a national accreditation agency and we are now fully accredited and approved by Cognia who oversees the sub-regional accrediting bodies as the parent organization of:

(1) Northwest Accredited Commission (NWAC)

(2) North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI)

(3) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)

How did we become accredited?

To earn accreditation from any national accrediting agency, NSLS met all of the agency’s standards of accreditation in the following categories through the external site team visits:

**Leadership Domain**
1. Mission, vision, guiding principles
2. Professional ethics and practices
3. Data analysis to drive education decisions

**Learning Domain**
1. Culture develops knowledge, skills, and dispositions of deep learning and engagement
2. Aligned and deep curricula
3. Regular and substantive interaction of learning and teaching
4. Analyzing and assessing learner’s progress and educational development

**Resource Domain**
1. Strong personnel to implement programming
2. Financial and technical resources to educate effectively
3. Commitment towards continuous improvement

- In the process of accreditation, NSLS created and implemented a one-year School Improvement Task Force consisting of 35 members from the entire organization, across all departments. All-staff training was conducted and continues to meet annually in subsequent accreditation years.
- Wrote and submitted a Self-Study Report and continue to submit Annual Reports to Cognia regarding our education program and continual process for improvement.
- Developed a Continuous Improvement Plan outlining our commitment to the Final Report findings and recommendations for NSLS. All-staff commitment towards the C.I.P. through regular and substantive engagement, training, and accountability.
- Conducted a week-long site visit by a team of experts to evaluate our programs and complete the Final Report to Cognia and make a recommendation for our accreditation.