Accreditation & Academic Alignment

About Northcentral University

Founded in 1996, Northcentral University (NCU) is a regionally accredited, private, online and graduate-focused university serving professionals globally. Northcentral University offers doctoral, master’s and bachelor’s degrees in business and technology management, education, psychology as well as marriage and family therapy. Courses are taught one-to-one by a member of NCU’s 100 percent doctoral faculty, and there are no physical residency requirements. Northcentral University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

Northcentral University educates professionals throughout the world by providing an opportunity to earn a U.S. regionally accredited degree online. We are committed to helping our students achieve academically and become valuable contributors in their communities and within their professions.

Northcentral University - Accreditation

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
  - Northcentral University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

- Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)
  - Northcentral University programs in the School of Business and Technology Management are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

- Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
  - Northcentral University offers the first and only primarily distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy.

- Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC)
  - Eight specializations in Northcentral Universities Master of Education (M.Ed.) program have received five year initial accreditation through the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

Northcentral University - Academic Alignment

- Northcentral University is a Registered Education Provider (R.E.P.) for the Project Management Institute (PMI)®.
- The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) has recognized Northcentral’s MBA in Human Resources Management as fully aligning with SHRM’s HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates.

As of 9/13
Northcentral University - Key Accreditation and Academic Alignment Dates

1996 – Northcentral University is founded by Dr. Don Hecht in Prescott, Arizona.

1998 – Northcentral University was granted a provisional degree-granting license by the State of Arizona Board for Private Postsecondary Education.

2003 – Northcentral University became institutionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

2007 – Northcentral University’s School of Business and Technology Management receives Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) accreditation for all business degree programs.


2009 – Northcentral University receives provisional approval to offer Title IV funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

2011 – Northcentral University’s Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) becomes an approved degree program for the State of California.

2012 – Northcentral University and Rio Salado College receive approval from the Arizona State Board of Education to offer a 3+1 bachelor of education degree.

2013 – Northcentral University becomes the first and only school to offer a primarily distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).

2013 - Eight specializations in Northcentral Universities Master of Education (M.Ed.) program receive five year initial accreditation through the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

2013 – The Master of Education with a Specialization in PK-12 Principal Leadership (M.Ed./PLCS), was approved by the Arizona Department of Education.

As of 9/13