

Association for Behavior Analysis International
Accreditation Board

Policy on Degree Mills and Accreditation Mills



ABAI
ACCREDITATION
BOARD

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Why are “degree mills” and “accreditation mills” harmful?

Degree mills (also known as diploma mills) are institutions that award academic degrees and diplomas with little or no academic study or engagement. Sometimes such institutions claim to be accredited by an accreditation mill—an agency that claims to be a provider of accreditation and quality assurance without proper standards or accreditation processes. Both degree and accreditation mills mislead students and have harmful consequences. In the United States, degrees from degree mills are not likely to be acknowledged by other institutions, employers, licensing authorities, credentialing agencies, or professional organizations. A program or institution’s “accreditation” from an accreditation mill can mislead students and the public about the quality of that program/institution. Thus, students may spend money and not receive a proper or useable credential. The Behavior Analysis Accreditation Board of the Association for Behavior Analysis International is committed to supporting the education of behavior analysts through its accreditation of higher education programs. Combating degree and accreditation mills requires a collaborative effort on the part of our members and the higher education community, however. Please educate yourself on this pernicious threat and be mindful of it. More information about degree and accreditation mills can be found on the Council for Higher Education Accreditation website (<http://www.chea.org/>).