

## **Terminology for Professional Formation**

Educational programs are **accredited**.

Professions are **regulated**.

Practitioners are **licensed or registered**.

Practice is **recognized**.

**Accreditation** – indicates that a naturopathic educational institution has been recognized as meeting certain criteria. There are three types of accreditation:

***Self-accreditation:*** refers to an educational institution setting its own standards and evaluating themselves. This may indicate an intention to adhere to specific standards, but as both the setting of standards and the evaluation are internal, there are seldom adequate checks and balances.

***Third-party accreditation:*** indicates that a school/program is adhering to standards set by an independent accrediting agency. An example, of third-party accreditation for the naturopathic profession is the CNME which accredits the Naturopathic medical programs in North America that achieve and maintain specific standards. The CNME is recognized as a programmatic accreditor by the U.S. Department of Education.

***Government-accreditation:*** In some world regions accreditation is granted by a governmental organization that sets the standards for a specific educational program. An example of governmental accreditation for the naturopathic profession is

***WNF recommendation:*** We encourage all naturopathic educational institutions to seek either 3<sup>rd</sup> party or governmental accreditation.

**Regulation** refers to governmental oversight of the practice of naturopathic medicine. It is a recognition of naturopathic medicine as a valid health care profession in a jurisdiction.

### ***Notes:***

- The WNF has a regulation policy. In this policy we outline the need to have the naturopathic profession regulated, not the individual treatment modalities.
- Regulation may include title protection or may outline a defined scope.
- Regulation is strongly based on educational standards.
- The sole purpose of regulation is to protect the public.

**Self-regulation:** In the absence of governmental regulation it is common for professional organizations to engage in self-regulation. Self-regulation generally refers to a profession requiring practitioners to belong to a professional organization that has set educational standards, a code of ethics, practice standards and that provides a forum and discipline process for consumer / patient complaints. In the absence of government regulation, the WNF encourages self-regulation.

**Licensure or Registration** of individual practitioners / doctors generally follows regulation. Oversight of individual professionals is done by a regulatory authority (also called College or Board in various jurisdictions) established by government. The role of licensure or registration is to ensure the professionals adhere to established regulatory standards. Once a profession is regulated, it is mandatory that all professionals that want to practice become licensed.

Notes: Licensure generally involves:

- Entrance criteria – specific educational levels, standardized exam, criminal records check, etc.
- Standards of practice
- Business standards
- Continuing education requirements
- Complaints and Discipline process

**Recognition** of practice involves various aspects of government recognizing that the practice of Naturopathy is a profession and a business. It involves such things as VAT (also referred to as IVA or TAX) and malpractice insurance.