



ACICS CENTENNIAL TIMELINE: *Milestones by Decade*

1910's

- **Early 20th Century:** Primary education disciplines for schools during this era are bookkeeping, accounting, business mathematics, penmanship, shorthand, typewriting, and machine calculating operations.
- **1912:** The National Association of Accredited Commercial Schools (NAACS), comprised of 23 private career schools, is founded to establish and advance quality of education and standards of excellence at private business schools and colleges. [Dr. Benjamin Franklin Williams](#) is elected as the Association's first president.
- **1917:** An operating charter is approved by member schools.

1920's

- **1920:** All member schools are required to subscribe to a code of ethics that included:
 - Behave honorably in all dealings with students;
 - Employ and maintain good teachers, suitable facilities, and equipment for one's operation;
 - Cultivate good moral standards;
 - Pay all debts in a timely manner;
 - Make no misleading statements about the quality of one's institution; and others.
- **1920's:** In addition to Membership and Educational Committees, a Vigilance Committee is established to ensure that member schools are following the established code of ethics for business and educational practices; this is the first movement toward the practice of accreditation.
- **1921:** NAACS has grown to 228 members.
- **1923:** The Great Chautauqua Conference in New York State is held as the first national gathering of its kind; the meeting focuses on how to keep the current generation of schools on pace with new inventions such as automobiles.
- **Mid-1920's:** Based on a suggestion by B.H. Van Opt, the Commonwealth of Virginia State Supervisor for Trade and Industrial Education, NAACS implements a Standards of Practice that would evaluate member schools' teacher qualifications, student entrance requirements, minimum course lengths, minimum equipment requirements, model courses of study, and graduation requirements.
- **1927:** Inspection of new member applicants begins in accordance with set Standards of Practice.

1930's

- 1937: NAACS celebrates its 25th anniversary at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago.
- Late 1930's: Career colleges begin teaching evening and weekend classes.

1940's

- **Early 1940's:** Career college students are included in training programs for War and Navy Departments.
- **1940:** The first sororities and fraternities are granted charters by the NAACS to develop poise and experience representing peers for students.
- **1941:** With the start of World War II, more than half of private career college students left school to join the military.
- **1942:** An Emergency War Council – including NAACS, the American Association of Commercial Colleges (AACC), and private business schools – was established to aid federal and state officials by making them aware that private business school facilities could be utilized in times of national emergency.
- **1944:** Servicemen's Readjustment Act (known as the G.I. Bill) is passed. Private school leaders succeed in having their schools recognized as eligible for the bill.
- **Mid-1940's:** NAACS works with State Department officials to establish pre-testing courses to keep current civil service examination standards in place.
- **1949:** NAACS merges with National Council of Business Schools (NCBS), and is renamed the National Association and Council of Business Schools (NACBS).

1950's

- **1952:** The Accrediting Commission of Business Schools (ACBS) establishes general requirements for entrance in private career schools, content for catalogs, and minimum degree requirements, thereby establishing the early drafts of what is now the ACICS Accreditation Criteria.
- **1954:** NACBS moves its headquarters to a permanent location in Washington, DC.
- **1950's:** ACBS is recognized by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now the U.S. Department of Education) only four years after the recognition process is established. The Department of Education has continuously recognized ACBS and its successors through present day.

1960's

- **1962:** The AACC and the NACBS merge to become the United Business Schools Association (USBA), representing 500 private business schools, with student enrollment totaling over 150,000. The newly-merged organization celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- **1963 & 1968:** Congress passes and refines the Vocational Education Act to extend and improve new programs, focus on rural poverty, manpower shortages, and areas of unemployment.
- **1964:** The first full-time, professional staff is hired to become a responsive voice for membership on Capitol Hill.
- **1965:** The Federal Higher Education Act is created. ACBS-accredited institutions fulfill all the necessary requirements and regulations under the Act.

1970's

- **1972:** UBSA changes its name to the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools (AICS) to better reflect increased diversity of member institutions beyond business programs.
- **Mid-1970's:** Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (now called Pell Grants) become available to higher education students in amounts totaling between \$200 and \$1,400 per year.
- **1974:** The Family Education and Privacy Rights Act is passed by Congress, changing the way schools are allowed to communicate to third party entities.

1980's

- **1980:** The government agency known today as the U.S. Department of Education is established.
- **1981:** AICS is accepted as a member of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) to demonstrate a vested interest in business education and the development of academic business programs.
- **1985:** AICS General Counsel William Clohan appeals to Congress to change the Higher Education Act to allow increased access for private career schools to federally sponsored programs.
- **Mid-1980's:** With the expansion of computers and software applications, keyboarding and general computer techniques become mainstream courses of study at many schools.

1990's

- **1991:** AICS is renamed the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).
- **1996:** The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is formed; ACICS is one of only two national accreditors recognized by both the Department of Education and CHEA.

2000's

- **2011:** ACICS accredits more than 850 institutions, serving more than 880,000 students in 46 states and 10 countries.
- **2012:** ACICS celebrates its [Centennial](#) anniversary.