People sometimes ask us:

Why isn’t The Center for Cartoon Studies accredited?

Will that affect what I can do with my degree?

CCS is approved to grant MFA degrees and one- and two-year certificates by the state of Vermont—no accreditation is required for this.

In fact, at this time, CCS chooses to remain unaccredited for a few reasons.

Before we explain this choice, let’s first explore what accreditation actually is.

Accreditation is granted by a private organization, such as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

It takes about 20 years for most schools to get from founding to accreditation.

It’s basically a set of guidelines, about things like facilities, faculty and structure.

CCS is just over ten years old!
Applying for accreditation is an expensive and time consuming process.

There are indirect costs too. CCS is a small organization, and having to manage reporting and site visits would only divert resources from what’s really important: the student.

The expense of accreditation also means higher tuition. CCS’s MFA program is second to none but its costs are a third less.

Ahem. Remember us?

One Year Tuition for Comics MFA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>TUITION*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCS, Center for Cartoon Studies</td>
<td>$20,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA, California College of the Arts</td>
<td>$30,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAD, Savannah College of Art and Design</td>
<td>$36,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCAD, Minneapolis College of Art and Design</td>
<td>$36,098</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accreditation does not guarantee quality, stability, or longevity.

*As of 4/1/17. Tuition is not the total cost of attending school. Source: school websites.
While not being accredited does make visas trickier, CCS has been approved to enroll international students in our MFA program since 2013. We’ve welcomed students from Australia, Canada, Trinidad, Malaysia, India, Ireland, Indonesia, Belgium and Argentina.

Federal education loans, are off the table without accreditation.

But, as of 2012, federal loans for MFAs are no longer subsidized, even for accredited schools...

...and CCS has worked to provide its students with good alternatives.

To help students afford tuition, CCS partners with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation to provide private educational loans with competitive rates and terms.

And since tuition is lower, loans to attend CCS are smaller too.
And not being accredited hasn’t hurt CCS, or its alums.

CCS went through a year-long process with the Vermont Board of Education to obtain degree-granting powers (using NEASC guidelines). CCS’s instructors, facilities, and programs are all top notch.

CCS alumni publish bestselling books with major publishers, and work as editors and designers in the comics industry.

CCS alumni have used their degrees to teach at institutions including...

- Stanford University
- The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- University of Colorado Boulder
- Missouri State University
- California College of the Arts
- SAIC

CCS might well work towards accreditation in the future, but right now, we’re focusing on our rigorous curriculum and the training of successful cartoonists.

www.cartoonstudies.org

~nd 2017