

Resolution of Intent - Summary

The idea is for like minded teacher training institutions of yoga to come together to form a peer Accreditation Council. The basic assumptions are the following:

1. The purposes of such a Council are:
 - to ensure that all schools operate within acceptable bounds of standards, even though they may have their own individual orientations;
 - those outside the field of yoga can find reasonable consistency on what to expect from certifications offered to students from such accredited training institutions;
 - eventually leading to a 'more correct' perception of yoga in the world, and even perhaps adoption of it as part of regular University curriculum.
2. Basis Document - Yoga Sutras of Patanjali will be the authoritative basis for determining what constitutes yoga, and all other views on yoga or forms of practices, whether from traditional literature or otherwise, must be interpreted in the light of the Yoga Sutras, failing which they should be rejected.
3. Peer Accreditation Process - The accreditation process will be on a peer basis, where every school/institution is audited by their peer schools/institutions to ensure that standards are maintained. No one person or institution will govern standards over others.
4. Nature of Standards & Non-profit functioning with Yoga Ethics - The Council will work on a non-profit basis with correct understanding of Yama, Niyama and Dharma with the Standards expressed in the form of outcome and intent and not in the nature of a high degree of specifics.
5. Certification level to meet Professional Needs - There will be different levels of certifications to serve the purpose of different professional needs of society. At this time the needs appear to be for:
 - **basic instructor** of techniques designed to safely lead a class for a specific regimen;
 - **yoga teacher** with ability to customize regimen for specific needs of participants;
 - **yoga therapist** would be a qualified yoga teacher, but also trained in the bio-medical subjects, with knowledge of evidence-based therapy, with possible specialization in specific diseases;
 - **Master or Fellow of the Council**, an honor granted to someone by acceptance by peer institutions of high achievement in yoga and considered to have capacity to train, evaluate and certify yoga teachers and yoga therapists, and be able to serve as a member of the accreditation audit team, and be eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors.
6. Initiating Accreditation Council –
 - **Council for Yoga Accreditation International** registered as a non-profit in the USA and with suitable registrations in other countries/parts of the world, except India, at a future date and for India at a future date either through by-laws amendment or a resolution this organization is planned to be linked with Indian Yoga Association.
 - **Charter Members** will be any Institute of repute specifically invited by the initial Board of Directors that agrees to join before a general application process opens sometime in 2012.
 - **Initial Board of Directors** will be those named in the articles of formation registered with the State of Maryland in the United States and the Institutes they represent will also be considered Charter members by the act of agreement prior to the registration.