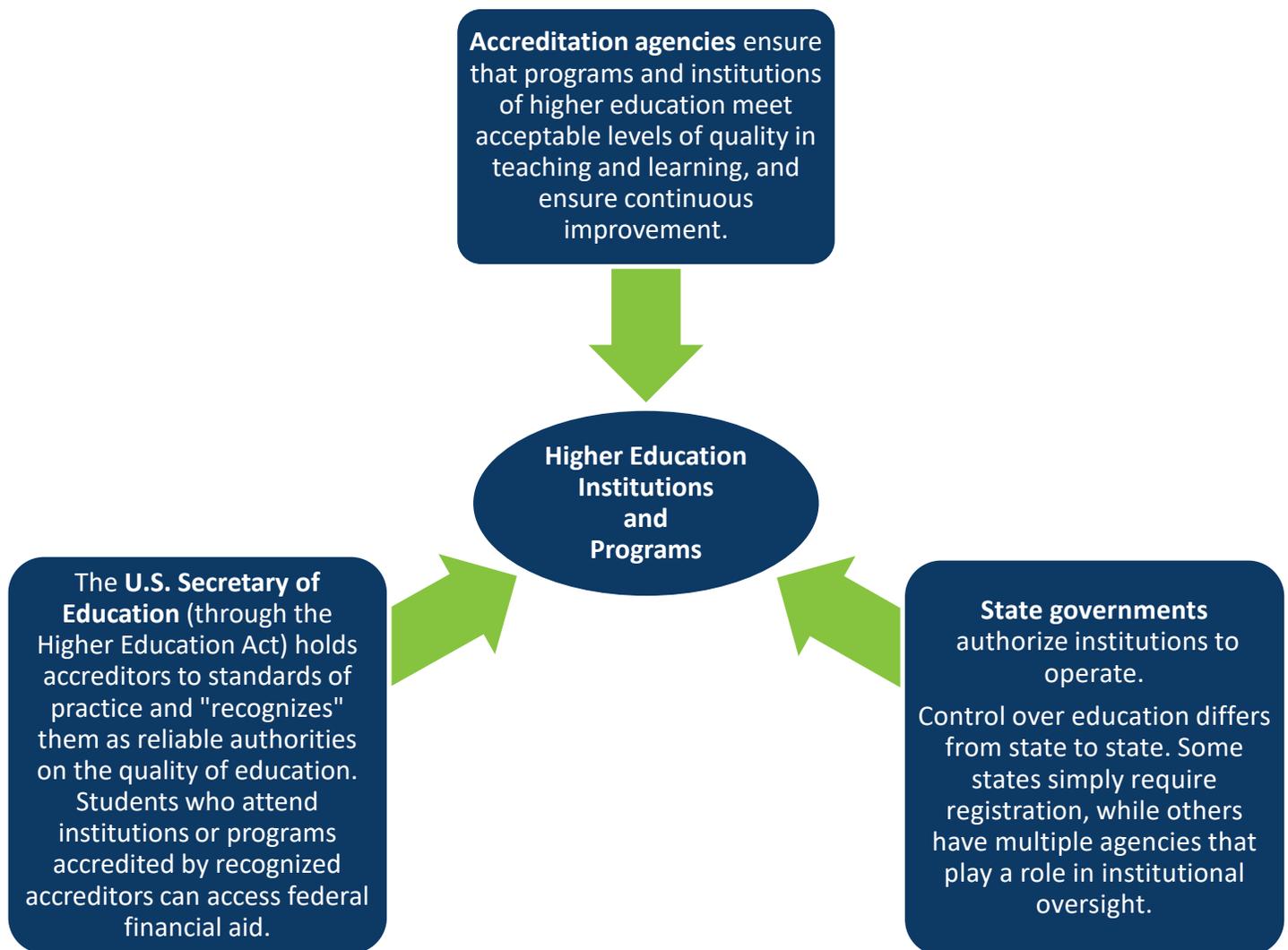


Regulation of higher education in the United States takes a three-pronged approach in which the federal government, state governments and accreditation organizations share responsibility. In contrast, other countries have a governmental ministry of education that controls the higher education system. The approach of shared responsibility as opposed to centralized control has allowed the United States to develop one of the most diverse and well-respected systems of higher education in the world.

Role of the Triad - While each of the three entities in the triad operates independently, each has a role in ensuring the quality of higher education. This independence is defined and protected by laws that establish certain relationships among the elements of the triad.



Philosophy of the Triad - The tenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted to prevent overreach by the federal government. It guarantees that any rights and responsibilities not specifically assigned to the federal government belong to the states and the people. As a result, the U.S. higher education system is very diverse. It allows institutions and programs of higher learning to operate autonomously, each pursuing a mission specific to its unique communities of interest.