



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
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ORDER SUSPENDING APPROVAL TO OPERATE
DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAMS

To: Southern California International University, Inc., Owner
Southern California International University
3440 Wilshire Blvd., 10th Floor, Suite #1000
Los Angeles, CA 90010

INSTITUTION CODE: 74309330

ORDER NUMBER: 1003659

ORDER MAILING DATE: September 19, 2018

ORDER EFFECTIVE DATE: September 24, 2018

DUE DATE TO REQUEST INFORMAL OFFICE CONFERENCE: October 24, 2018

Yvette Johnson, as the designee of the Bureau Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau), hereby issues an Order Suspending Approval to Operate (Order) of the above institution.

This Order is hereby issued to Southern California International University, Inc., owner of Southern California International University located at 3440 Wilshire Blvd., 10th Floor, Suite #1000, Los Angeles, CA 90010 pursuant to California Education Code (CEC) section 94885.5 and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) section 71410 for the violations described below.

Factual Basis

Bureau records indicate that on April 4, 2016, Southern California International University, an unaccredited degree granting institution, received a provisional approval to operate two degree programs. The provisional approval was granted in accordance with CEC section 94885.5 (a).

Pursuant to CEC section 94885.5 subdivision (b), the following is required:

(1) Students seeking to enroll in the institution shall be notified in writing by the institution, prior to the execution of the student's enrollment agreement, that the institution's approval to operate is contingent upon it being subsequently accredited.

(2) Within the first two years of issuance of the provisional approval, a visiting committee, empaneled by the bureau pursuant to Section 94882, shall review the institution's application for approval and its accreditation plan, and make a recommendation to the bureau regarding the institution's progress to achieving full accreditation.

(3) The institution shall provide evidence of accreditation candidacy or pre-accreditation¹ within two years of issuance of its provisional approval, and evidence of accreditation within five years of issuance of its provisional approval, with the scope of that accreditation covering the offering of at least one degree program.

On April 3, 2018, the Bureau received Southern California International University's timely request for an extension to achieve pre-accreditation or accreditation candidacy and supporting documentation. On June 19, 2018, the Bureau notified Southern California International University, in writing, that it determined that the institution has not submitted sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the institution is making strong progress toward obtaining accreditation with an accrediting agency, which included taking active steps to comply with CEC section 94885.5 and providing documentation from an accrediting agency demonstrating the institution's likely ability to meet the requirements of CEC section 94885.5.

ORDER

In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94885.5 and 5 CCR sections 71410 and 74250, the Bureau hereby orders the following:

1. The approval to operate issued to Southern California International University, Inc. to operate Southern California International University is automatically suspended as to the institutions two degree programs. The Bureau will not lift the suspension until the institution complies with the requirements of CEC section 94885.5.
2. You must immediately **cease enrolling new students** in any of your degree programs.
3. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, you must submit a **degree program closure plan** to the Bureau with all of the following:
 - a. The exact date the institution stopped enrolling new students in the degree program(s);
 - b. A list of contact information for all students currently enrolled in each degree program;
 - c. A **teach-out plan** with information on the arrangements you have made for students to complete their educational programs at another institution. **The institution shall not teach-out its own students.** The teach-out plan must: (1) provide the name and location of the institution(s) providing the teach-out; (2) include a plan for the disposition of student records per CEC section 94927.5; (3) be compliant with the refund provisions of CEC section 94927; and (4) include a copy of the notification to be provided to students identified in item # 4 below.
4. The institution must notify, in writing, all currently enrolled students within five (5) business days of the effective date of this Order of the following:

¹ As defined by 5 CCR section 70000(s), for this purpose, "pre-accreditation" or "candidacy" means that an institution has submitted a completed application for initial accreditation with the required fee, which was accepted by the accreditor.

- a. That the institution has received a notice of suspension from the Bureau and may no longer offer degree programs.
 - b. The teach-out plan, which shall provide, at minimum, the following information: (1) the name and location of the institution(s) that is providing the teach-out, (2) the date upon which instruction at the teach-out institution(s) will begin, (3) how and when payments will be made to the new institution and any relevant financial information, and (4) a contact person at the new institution(s).
 - c. That the student has a right to choose not to participate in the teach-out, and instead seek a refund for any classes the student is currently enrolled in or has not yet completed.
5. Any student may seek a refund from the institution rather than participate in a proposed teach-out program. The school must provide refunds within 45 days of the request by a student.
 6. Failure of any institution to comply with the requirements of this section will be considered a violation and subject to action by the Bureau.

APPEAL OF ORDER

You may request an appeal of this Order before the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs, or his or her designee. (5 CCR section 71410.)

Because this suspension is automatic per CEC section 94885.5 the institution shall not operate its degree programs during any appeal.

If you wish to appeal this Order, you must do so within 30 days from the effective date of the Order. Unless you sign a written request for an appeal and deliver it to the Bureau within 30 days from the effective date of the Order, you will be deemed to have waived your right to appeal this matter to the Department of Consumer Affairs. *If you do not request an informal office conference within 30 days from the effective date of the Order, you will not be able to request one later.*

Upon timely receipt of your request for an appeal, an informal office conference will be arranged within 30 days, or as extended at your request or by the Bureau for good cause. Upon request and approval, the person approved to operate the institution or representative may participate in the office conference by telephone.

Please submit your request to:

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
Attn: Renee Walters, Discipline Analyst
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Ste. 400
Sacramento, CA 95833

Failure by an institution to comply with the Order above may result in further enforcement action. The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate action to enforce this Order.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this Order, or can verify can verify that you submitted evidence to the Bureau of accreditation candidacy or pre-accreditation, please contact Renee Walters, Discipline Analyst, at (916) 576-2398 or Renee.Walters@dca.ca.gov.



Yvette Johnson
Enforcement Chief

9-19-18

Date

Enclosures

- Declaration of Service by Certified and First Class Mail