



Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency– Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

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P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818
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January 11, 2017

ACICS Accredited Institution

As you are probably aware, the Secretary of the United States Department of Education (Department) has acted on the appeal of the denial of re-recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). The decision is to affirm the denial of re-recognition, and is final from the Department’s standpoint. However, ACICS had indicated it will seek legal recourse (including requesting a stay of the decision) through the courts.

Below are links that provide helpful information from the Department and ACICS:

<http://www2.ed.gov/documents/acics/final-acics-decision.pdf>

<http://www2.ed.gov/documents/acics/ppa-provisions.pdf>

<http://www.acics.org/accreditation/content.aspx?id=6806>

What does this mean for your school’s approval to operate in California?

The California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 requires that an Approval By Means of Accreditation (ABMA) be based on accreditation from an accreditor that is *recognized by the United States Department of Education*. If the records of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) indicate that your institution is ABMA with your accreditor listed as ACICS, the Bureau may be initiating an action against your institution due to the loss of the basis for your approval to operate in California and any other student protection concerns.

We are encouraging institutions to apply for full approval by utilizing the “application for approval for non- accredited institutions.” This may allow for an alternative pathway to approval to operate because it is not dependent on accreditation by a United States recognized accreditor. Note, however, that accreditation will still be required for degree granting institutions, regardless of whether the institution holds a full approval or an ABMA.

Another pathway to consider is to seek accreditation by a different accreditor than ACICS. You must submit documentation from your new accreditor confirming your accreditation.

Again, and as a reminder, if you offer degree programs, California Education Code (CEC) sections 94885.1 and 94885.5 require that your institution be accredited by an accreditor recognized by the Department with the scope covering at least one degree program.

What information does the Bureau require from the Institution?

As we stated previously, this is an unprecedented situation, and the Bureau continues to monitor the issues and do all it can to protect students from potential harm. As part of the process, the Bureau requires the following information from you by January 25, 2017:

- 1) A copy of the required teach-out plan submitted to the Department;
- 2) Copies of disclosures your institution has provided to students regarding their ability to participate in licensing exams in light of the institution's loss of accreditation by an accreditor recognized by the Department;
- 3) Update on plans to seek institutional accreditation from a recognized accreditor, including whether the institution has decided not to seek other accreditation;
- 4) A complete roster of all students currently enrolled. The roster should include students' names, addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, programs the student is contracted to take, the students' enrollment dates, and students' expected graduation dates.

We appreciate your continued cooperation with this process. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the telephone number and email address below.

Sincerely,



Joanne Wenzel
Chief, Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
(916) 431-6905
Joanne.Wenzel@dca.ca.gov

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN BY JANUARY 25, 2017 TO:

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

2535 Capitol Oaks Dr., Suite 400

Sacramento, CA 95833 Attention: Richie Barnard

OR by U.S. Postal Service at:

P.O. Box 980818

West Sacramento, CA 95798-0810 Attention: Richie Barnard

OR by email at: Richie.Barnard@dca.ca.gov

Previously, the Bureau asked about your plans for accreditation. Please complete and return the following information regardless of any prior responses you gave to the Bureau.

1. Has the institution changed plans on their decision to seek accreditation with another accreditor recognized by the Department or made progress in seeking accreditation?
 - YES, we are seeking accreditation from a different accreditor recognized by the Department. OR
 - NO, we are not seeking other accreditation.
 - If YES, which accreditor? _____.
 - If YES, has the institution applied to the other accreditor yet? Please circle one: YES NO.
 - If YES, please list the steps the institution has taken toward accreditation and the dates of those steps: _____.
2. Has your institution applied for "Full Approval" from the Bureau? YES NO
If NO, do you intend to apply for "Full Approval"? YES NO
3. Please provide the following:
 - a. A copy of your school's most recent student roster for each location. The roster should include students' names, addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, programs the student is contracted to take, the students' enrollment dates, and students' expected graduation dates. (Electronic or hard copy.);
 - b. A copy of the required teach-out plan submitted to the Department if or when available;
 - c. Copies of disclosures your institution has provided to students regarding their ability to participate in licensing exams in light of the institution's loss of accreditation by an accreditor recognized by the Department.