

September 22, 2016

ACICS Accredited Institution

As you are probably aware, the United States Department of Education (Department) has decided to deny re-recognition to the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). You are probably also aware that ACICS does have the option to appeal the decision to the Secretary of Education (Secretary). On September 22, 2016, ACICS issued the following statement: “ACICS plans to appeal the SDO’s decision to Secretary King. While the appeal is pending, ACICS retains its federal recognition and remains determined to fully execute its accreditation responsibilities in a professional manner.” If ACICS appeals the decision, the loss of recognition will indeed be stayed and ACICS will retain its federal recognition during the appeal, and there is no set timeframe for when a decision on the appeal must be made by the Secretary.

Here are links to detailed information regarding the above from the Department:

- Full Office of Postsecondary Education staff report: <https://opeweb.ed.gov/aslweb/finalstaffreports.cfm>
- Blog: <http://blog.ed.gov>
- FAQ: <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/faqs-accrediting-agencies.pdf>
- Infographic: <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditor-federal-recognition-process-steps.pdf>

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

The Bureau’s records indicate that your institution is Approved By Means of Accreditation (ABMA), with your accreditor listed as ACICS. This means that your ABMA is dependent on ACICS’s continued ability to accredit your school as an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. See, the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (Act), Education Code sections 94890, 94813, and 94814.

**Accordingly, ACICS’s loss of recognition by the Department will remove the basis for the institution’s accreditation status, and the Bureau may have to initiate proceedings to revoke your school’s ABMA.**

However, the Bureau will currently accept applications for “full approval” from your institution or alternatively, applications for ABMA with a new accreditor. If your school has no degree granting programs, you may apply for full approval; even if your school has degree granting

programs, you may still apply for full approval, but ultimately will have to comply with the requirement for institutional accreditation. The Bureau cannot guarantee that the applications will be granted or processed prior to the potential loss of ACISC's recognition by the Department. The Bureau does not waive its right to move for emergency relief to restrict enrollment or for other relief pursuant to the Act and regulations.

**What information does the Bureau require from you?**

As we stated previously, this is an unprecedented situation, and the Bureau continues to analyze the issues necessary to address the situation and to do all it can to protect students from potential harm. As part of the process, and because the Bureau has a mandate to protect students and ensure minimum operating standards at your institution, it requires the following information from you. Please complete the attached page, make a copy for your records if you wish, and return the document to the Bureau.

We appreciate your assistance 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](mailto:Joanne.Wenzel@dca.ca.gov)

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN BY OCTOBER 6, 2016 TO:**

**Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education**

2535 Capitol Oaks Dr., Suite 400

Sacramento, CA 95833 Attention: Richie Barnard

***OR by US. Postal Service at:***

P.O. Box 980818

West Sacramento, CA 95798-0810 Attention: Richie Barnard

***OR by email at: [Richie.Barnard@dca.ca.gov](mailto: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 a copy of your school's most recent student roster for each location. Please indicate the students name, program, contact information, enrollment date and expected graduation date. (Electronic or hard copy.)