



**Department of Consumer Affairs**  
**Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education**

**Stakeholder Meeting**  
**ACICS Accredited Institutions**  
**July 14, 2016**

# Disclaimer

Everything we discuss today is based upon the Bureau's understanding of the facts and possible outcomes as they are currently.

There may be things that happen that we can't currently anticipate or interpretations of statute may change. We commit to sharing any new or different information with you as quickly and efficiently as possible.

# AGENDA

1. INTRODUCTION
2. OVERVIEW
3. IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA APPROVAL TO OPERATE
4. OPTIONS
5. Q & A
6. LICENSING WORKSHOP

# OVERVIEW

June, 2016  
United States  
Department  
Staff  
Recommend  
Denial of Re-  
recognition of  
ACICS

June, 2016  
NACIQI  
recommends  
denial of re-  
recognition  
of ACICS

Within 90 days  
of NACIQI  
recommendation  
Senior  
Department  
Official makes  
decision  
(9/22/16)

Within 30  
days of the  
SDO decision  
ACICS may  
file an appeal

Secretary  
decides on  
appeal – no  
time period

ACICS may  
file for stay

Upon final  
decision  
institutions  
**may** be  
eligible for  
provisional  
TIV for 18  
months

## Considerations:

ACICS may voluntarily withdraw recognition at any time  
The entire process could take weeks, months, or even years

# Impact on approval if ACICS is Denied Re-Recognition

## **Approval by Means of Accreditation (ABMA)**

Emergency Action to stop enrollment.

Administrative action against the approval to operate because of the loss of the basis for the approval.

## **"Full Approval"**

Investigation in to the institutions capacity to meet the minimum operating standards.

In both situations the Bureau is mandated to consider the institutions ability to meet minimum operating standards. Three immediate areas of concern are:

- the impact of loss of accreditation on financial resources
- the offering of degree programs by unaccredited institutions
- the impact on students enrolled in programs leading to occupations that require graduation from accredited institutions.

# OPTIONS

## **Full Approval to Operate**

Full Approval to operate instead of ABMA may:

- prevent questions about State Authorization by the Department or other potential accreditors
- eliminate any reason for the Bureau to take an action because of the loss of basis of the approval.

## **Become Accredited by a Different Accreditor**

If your institution has dual accreditation you may want to explore options of the secondary accreditor taking over institutional accreditation.

Seek accreditation of a different accreditor with an appropriate scope of accreditation.

# Questions & Answers

## Question

What steps are required for institutions that have already applied for new accreditation?

## Answer

No steps are required.

Institutions in this situation might want to consider the information you receive here today and take other actions such as applying for full approval if you are ABMA.

# Questions & Answers

## Question

What steps does an institution take that was approved by means of accreditation through ACICS? Does an institution ABMA apply for full approval (again)?

## Answer

Yes, institutions that desire to change their approval type from ABMA to Non-accredited approval (full approval) must submit an application for approval to operate an institution non-accredited.



# Questions & Answers

## Question

A) If an institution wants to apply for “full approval” when should they apply?

B) How long will it take?

## Answer

A) The choice to apply for “full approval” and the timing of that application are a business decision of the institution.

B) It depends on the quality of the application submitted.

# Questions & Answers

## Question

When will the accreditation regulation be implemented for colleges? What plans are in place to regulate unaccredited universities and seminaries.

## Answer

January 1, 2015.

(CEC section 94885(b), 94885.1 and 94885.5 and 5, CCR section 71105.5)

# Questions & Answers

## Question

If ACICS does not prevail, will schools currently in teach-out be expected to seek another accreditor if they will complete the teach-out and close prior to the conclusion of the 18 months?

## Answer

This is complicated and I encourage you to contact the Bureau in order to discuss specific details.

# Questions & Answers

## Question

Should an institution start the application process for “full approval” before the DOE makes a decision within 90 days?

## Answer

That is a business decision for the institution.

I encourage you to consider the information that you receive here today.

# Questions & Answers

## Question

How is the Bureau addressing compliance for language training.

## Answer

Language schools are not treated differently. If you believe there is something unique to your institution please contact the Bureau in order to discuss the specific situation.

# Questions & Answers

## Question

How will this affect institutions who get approval through other DCA boards?

## Answer

While the Bureau is in the process of identifying those institutions and programs that require approval of other oversight entities, we encourage you to contact the other oversight agency in order to determine how the institution and/or programs may be impacted.

# Questions & Answers

## Question

Is it okay to pursue two approaches to protect students, meaning apply for a “full approval” while also working through accreditation?

## Answer

Yes

# Questions & Answers

## Question

How should institutions make a decision to seek accreditation with another accreditor recognized by the Department?

## Answer

The Bureau has not gone through this process but would recommend that you begin by taking a look at your institution and find an accreditor with a scope of accreditation that can accommodate your institution. Some considerations may be organization type, mission and objectives as well as programs offered.



# Questions & Answers

## Question

How is it best to advise our students about the current situation surrounding ACICS?

## Answer

Quickly, clearly and honestly. This is a complicated situation but your students must be advised of the situation.

To that end, the Bureau will be reaching out with a letter to your student population. The note will closely mirror the information that was sent to the institutions and is found on the website for the USDOE.

# CONTACTING THE BUREAU

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