

Dear Student,

You are receiving this letter because the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) approves and licenses the school you attend. The Bureau provides California state oversight of your school.

The Bureau is reaching out to you because your school is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Universities (ACICS). ACICS is currently facing possible discipline or loss of recognition by the United States Department of Education (Department). It was recently recommended to the Department that ACICS no longer be recognized as a national accrediting agency.

The entire process of determining if ACICS continues to be recognized could take months or even years and in the end ACICS's accrediting ability may or may not change. If the Department's final determination is to not recognize ACICS, the Department has the option to allow all schools that were accredited by ACICS to remain eligible for federal financial aid for up to 18 months.

The Bureau has no role in the Department's decision, but this decision could have an impact on your school and on you. The Department's concerns with ACICS should not be seen as a reflection on your school and the timeline for this process is uncertain.

How this Impacts Your School:

- Potential loss of accreditation.
- Potential loss of federal funding.
- Potential loss of approval by the Bureau.

How This Impacts You:

- If ACICS loses its accrediting ability, then your school will no longer be accredited unless alternative accreditation is obtained.
- Your school's lack of accreditation could keep you from being licensed if the license requires you to graduate from an accredited school.
- It may also affect your job placement and your financial aid.
- It could mean that your school is no longer authorized to operate in California.

What Can You Do:

- Talk with your school administrators and learn how they plan to help their students.
- If you are enrolled in a program that leads to licensure, call or check the website of the licensing agency and determine if graduating from an accredited institution is a requirement
- Know your rights as a student. Visit the Bureau's website (www.bppe.ca.gov) or call at (888) 370-7589.

ACICS will continue to be recognized until a final decision is made and any appeals are heard. In the meantime, your school may already be working to become accredited by another accrediting agency.

For more information, go to the following links.

- Full Office of Postsecondary Education staff report: <https://opeweb.ed.gov/aslweb/finalstaffreports.cfm>
- Blog: <http://blog.ed.gov/2016/06/college-accreditation-changes-mean-students/>
- 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>