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## FINANCIAL AID FOR POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS Accreditation in the United States

### REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITING AGENCIES

The dates specified for each entry are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency, the date of the Secretary's most recent grant of renewed recognition, and the date of the agency's next scheduled review for renewal of recognition by the National Advisory Commission on Institutional Quality and Integrity. (Note: S = Spring meeting and I = International meeting.)

Note: The U.S. Department of Education does not have the authority to accredit private or public elementary or secondary schools, and the Department does not recognize accrediting bodies for the accreditation of private or public elementary and secondary schools. However, the U.S. Department of Education does recognize accrediting bodies for the accreditation of institutions of higher (postsecondary) education. If an accrediting body which is recognized by the Department for higher education also accredits elementary and secondary schools, the Department's recognition applies only to the agency's accreditation of postsecondary institutions.

#### Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

1969/2005/F2009

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of private, postsecondary institutions in the United States offering predominantly allied health education programs and the programmatic accreditation of medical assistant, medical laboratory technician and surgical technology programs, leading to a certificate, diploma, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Occupational Science, or Academic Associate degree, including those offered via distance education.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding allied health education institutions and institutions offering predominantly allied health programs may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

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#### Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

1967/2005/F2009

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of private, postsecondary, nondegree-granting institutions and degree-granting institutions in the United States, including those granting associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees, that are predominantly organized to educate students for occupational, trade and technical careers, and including institutions that offer programs via distance education.

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#### Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training

1978/2008/F2012

Scope of recognition: Scope of recognition: the accreditation throughout the United States of institutions of higher education that offer continuing education and vocational programs that confer certificates or occupational associate degrees, including those programs offered via distance education.

**Title IV Note:** *Only those institutions classified by this agency as "vocational" may receive accreditation by the agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

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#### **Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools**

1956/2006/S2011

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of private postsecondary institutions offering certificates or diplomas, and postsecondary institutions offering associate, bachelor's, or master's degrees in programs designed to educate students for professional, technical, or occupational careers, including those that offer those programs via distance education.

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#### **Council on Occupational Education**

1969/2007/S2011

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy Status") throughout the United States of postsecondary occupational education institutions offering non-degree and applied associate degree programs in specific career and technical education fields, including institutions that offer programs via distance education.

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#### **Distance Education and Training Council, Accrediting Commission**

1959/2007/F2011

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer degree programs primarily by the distance education method up to and including the professional doctoral degree, and are specifically certified by the agency as accredited for Title IV purposes; and for the accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States not participating in Title IV that offer programs primarily by the distance education method up through the professional doctoral degrees.

**Title IV Note:** *Only accredited institutions that are certified by the agency as accredited for Title IV purposes may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

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**Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education**

1952/2007/S2012

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy status") of institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including distance education programs offered at those institutions.

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**Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools**

2004/2007/F2011

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of institutions with postsecondary, non-degree granting career and technology programs in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands including those that offer all or part of their educational programs via distance education modalities.

**Title IV Note:** Only those vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

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**New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education**

1952/2008/F2012

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Candidacy status") of institutions of higher education in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont that award associate's, bachelor's, master's, and/or doctoral degrees, including the accreditation of programs offered via distance education within these institutions. This recognition extends to the Board of Trustees of the Association jointly with the Commission for decisions involving pre-accreditation, initial accreditation, and adverse actions.

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**New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical Career Institutions**

1952/2006/F2008

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate status") of secondary institutions with vocational-technical programs at the 13th and 14th grade level, postsecondary institutions, and institutions of higher education that provide primarily vocational/technical education at the certificate, associate, and baccalaureate degree levels in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. This recognition extends to the Board of Trustees of the Association jointly with the Commission for decisions involving preaccreditation, initial accreditation, and adverse actions.

**Title IV Note:** Any vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education and that wish to use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs must be accredited by the agency as a condition of participation.

*education through the 13th or 14th grade level.*

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**New York State Board of Regents, and the Commissioner of Education**  
1952/2007/S2012

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of those degree-granting institutions of high education in New York, including distance education offered by those institutions, designate the agency as their sole or primary nationally recognized accrediting agency for purposes of establishing eligibility to participate in HEA programs.

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**North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Higher Learning Commission**

1952/2008/F2012

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, including tribal institutions, and the accreditation of programs offered via distance education within these institutions. This recognition extends to the Institutions Actions Committee jointly with the Board of Trustees of the Commission for decisions on cases for continued accreditation or reaffirmation and continued candidacy. This recognition also extends to the Review Committee of the Accreditation Review Committee jointly with the Board of Trustees of the Commission, for decisions on cases for continued accreditation or candidacy and for initial candidacy or initial accreditation where there is a consensus decision by the Review Committee.

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**North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, Board of Trustees**

1974/2007/F2011

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy status") of schools offering non-degree, postsecondary education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and in the Navajo Nation.

**Title IV Note:** Only those vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

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**Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities**

1952/2008/F2012

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Candidacy status") postsecondary degree-granting educational institutions in Alaska, Idaho, Montana Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, including the accreditation of programs c via distance education within these institutions.

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**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges**

1952/2006/S2011

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Alabama, Flo Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennes: Texas, and Virginia, including distance education programs offered at those institu

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**Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, Accreditation Commission**

1991/2005/F2009

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate" status) postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer certificates, diplomas, ar associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees, including institutions that offer d education.

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**Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges**

1952/2008/F2012

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of two-year, associate degree-granting institutions located in Calif Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic c Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Ma Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, including the accreditation of su programs offered via distance education at these colleges.

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### Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools

1974/2006/F2008

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of adult and postsecondary schools that offer programs below the level in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

**Title IV Note:** Only adult and postsecondary schools accredited by this agency through postsecondary programs below the degree level may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

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### Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

1952/2007/F2011

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of senior colleges and universities in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, including distance education programs offered at those institutions.

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