Part IV

Department of Education

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies and State Approval Agencies; Notice
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies and State Approval Agencies

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: List of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and state approval agencies.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Secretary of Education is required by statute to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and State approval agencies (1) whose accreditation or approval is a required element in enabling accredited or approved institutions, programs, or both to establish eligibility to participate in Federal programs and (2) whom the Secretary has determined to be reliable authorities concerning the quality of education or training provided by the institutions or programs these agencies accredit or approve. This document contains the current list of nationally recognized agencies and supersedes any previously published lists of these types of agencies.


Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by statute, the Secretary issues the following list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and State approval agencies that the Secretary has determined to be reliable authorities concerning the quality of education or training provided by the institutions, programs, or both that these agencies accredit or approve.

The criteria the Secretary uses in determining whether a particular agency should be listed as a nationally recognized accrediting agency are specified in parentheses for each agency and are the date of initial listing as a nationally recognized agency, the date of the Secretary’s most recent grant of recognition to the agency, and the date of the agency’s next scheduled review for continued recognition. The geographical scope of recognition of each accrediting agency is the United States, unless stated otherwise. If the Secretary has placed a limitation on the scope of an agency’s recognition for purposes of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, that limitation is noted in a “Title IV Note” for that agency.

I. Regional Institutional Accrediting Agencies

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education (1952/1996/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate for Accreditation”) of institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Republic of Panama and a limited number of freestanding American-style institutions abroad that are chartered or licensed by an appropriate agency within the Middle States region.


Title IV Note: Only those public 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.


New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (1952/1997/2002). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate for Accreditation”) of institutions of higher education in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont that award bachelor’s, master’s, and/or doctoral degrees as well as associate degree-granting institutions in those states that include degrees in liberal arts or general studies among their offerings. This recognition extends to the Board of Trustees of the Association jointly with the Commission for decisions involving preaccreditation, initial accreditation, and adverse actions.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical and Career Institutions (1952/1997/2002). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate for Accreditation”) of vocational-technical secondary educational 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.


Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (1952/1997/2002). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of community and junior colleges 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 that offer 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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II. National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Agencies

Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (1952/1997/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of basic (baccalaureate) and advanced (master's) level programs in engineering, associate and baccalaureate degree programs in engineering technology, and engineering-related programs at the baccalaureate and advanced degree level.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


Title IV Note: Only freestanding schools or colleges of acupuncture or oriental medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, Commission on Accreditation (1952/1996/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of Bible colleges and institutes offering undergraduate programs.


Title IV Note: Only freestanding allied health education schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (1967/1995/1999). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary, non-degree-granting institutions and degree-granting institutions, including those granting associate and baccalaureate degrees, that are predominantly organized to educate students for occupational, trade and technical careers.


Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


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

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (1956/1995/2000). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of private postsecondary institutions offering business and business-related programs and the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Recognized Candidate") of junior and senior colleges of business (including senior colleges with master's degree programs), as well as independent, freestanding institutions offering only graduate business and business-related programs at the master's degree level.

Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (1952/1996/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of units within institutions offering professional undergraduate and graduate (master's) degree programs in journalism and mass communications.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

American Academy for Liberal Education (1995/1997/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions of higher education and programs within institutions of higher education that offer liberal arts degrees at the baccalaureate level or a documented equivalency.

Title IV Note: Only institutions of higher education accredited by this agency may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (1978/1995/2000). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of clinical training programs in marriage and family therapy at the master’s, doctoral, and postgraduate levels.
Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (1955/1996/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of institutions and programs of nurse anesthesia at the certificate, master's, or doctoral degree levels.

Title IV Note: Only hospital-based nurse anesthesia programs and freestanding nurse anesthesia institutions may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


Title IV Note: Only freestanding law schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Board of Funeral Service Education, Committee on Accreditation (1972/1997/2002). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of institutions and programs awarding diploma's, associate degrees and bachelor's degrees in funeral service or mortuary science.

Title IV Note: Only freestanding schools or colleges of funeral service or mortuary science may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

American College of Nurse-Midwives, Division of Accreditation (1962/1995/2000). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate Status”) of basic certificate and graduate nurse-midwifery education programs for registered nurses, as well as the accreditation and preaccreditation of pre-certification nurse-midwifery education programs.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (1952/1995/2000). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Preaccreditation”) of professional degree programs in pharmacy leading to the degrees of Baccalaureate in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation (1952/1995/2000). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of predoctoral dental education programs (programs leading to the DDS of DMD degree); dental auxiliary education programs (dental assisting, dental hygiene and dental laboratory technology); and advanced dental educational programs (general practices residency, advanced general dentistry, and the specialties of dental public health, endodontics, oral pathology, orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, pedodontics, periodontics, and prosthetics).

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. The American Dietetic Association, Commission on Accreditation/Approval for Dietetics Education (1974/1996/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation programs in dietetics at both the undergraduate and graduate level, postbaccalaureate dietetic internships, and dietetic technician programs at the associate degree level.

Title IV Note: Only postbaccalaureate dietetic internship programs may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Occupational Therapy Association, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (1952/1995/2000). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of entry-level professional occupational therapy educational programs awarding baccalaureate degrees, post-baccalaureate certificates, professional master's degrees, and combined baccalaureate/master's degrees, and also for the accreditation of occupational therapy assistant programs leading to an associate degree or certificate.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Optometric Association, Council on Optometric Education (1952/1997/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Reasonable Assurance” and “Preliminary Approval” [for professional degree programs] and “Candidate Pending” [for optometric residency programs in Veterans Administration facilities] of professional optometric degree programs, optometric residency programs, and optometric technician (associate degree) programs.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Osteopathic Association, Bureau of Professional Education (1952/1995/2000). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Provisional Accreditation”) of freestanding institutions of osteopathic medicine and programs leading to the degree of Doctor of Osteopathy or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

Title IV Note: Only freestanding schools or colleges of osteopathic medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Physical Therapy Association, Commission on Accreditation in Education (1977/1996/2001). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate for Accreditation” status) of programs for the preparation of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Podiatric Medical Association, Council on Podiatric Medical Education (1952/1995/2000). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate Status”) of freestanding colleges of podiatric medicine and programs of podiatric medicine, including first professional programs leading to the degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.

Title IV Note: Only freestanding schools or colleges of podiatric medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Psychological Association, Committee on Accreditation (1970/1997/1999). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, school and combined professional-scientific psychology, predoctoral internship programs in professional psychology, and postdoctoral residency programs in professional psychology.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation (1967/1997/2002). Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candacy Status”) of Master’s and doctoral-level degree programs in speech-language pathology and audiology.

Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. American Veterinary Medical Association, Council on Education (1952/1997/2001). Scope of recognition:
The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Preaccreditation") of programs leading to professional degrees (D.V.M. or D.M.V.) in veterinary medicine.

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Accreditation of Private and Non-degree granting postsecondary occupational/technical/vocational education institutions that offer non-degree and associate, baccalaureate, and master’s degree programs primarily through the distance learning method.

**Title IV Note:** Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


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**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding Montessori teacher education schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. Further, that accreditation must have been granted in conjunction with the accrediting activities of the review committees listed above.


**Title IV Note:** Only hospital-based clinical laboratory science programs and freestanding laboratory science institutions may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


**Title IV Note:** Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


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of recognition: The accreditation of institutions and units within institutions offering degree-granting and non-degree-granting programs in art, design, or art/design-related disciplines.

**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding schools or colleges of art and design may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding schools or colleges of dance may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation, Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation, Commission on Community/Junior College Accreditation (1952/1997/2002). Scope of recognition: The accreditation of institutions and units within institutions offering degree-granting and non-degree-granting programs in music and music-related disciplines, including community/junior colleges and independent degree-granting and non-degree-granting institutions.

**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding schools or colleges of music may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding schools or colleges of theatre may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


**Title IV Note:** Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


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**Title IV Note:** Only diploma programs and practical nursing programs not located in a regionally accredited college or university may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.


III. State Approval Agencies for Public Postsecondary Vocational Education


Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (1976/1996/2000). Scope of recognition: The approval of public postsecondary vocational education in the State of Oklahoma for which credit earned is applied toward a degree, diploma, or other postsecondary academic or collegiate award given at State institutions comprising the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.


IV. State Approval Agencies for Nurse Education


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