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## **U.S. Regional and National Institutional Accrediting Agencies**

### **Source: US Department of Education**

The following regional and national accrediting agencies are recognized by the Secretary as reliable authorities concerning the quality of education or training offered by the institutions of higher education or higher education programs they accredit.

The dates specified for each entry are (1) the date of initial listing as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, (2) the date of the most recent review for renewed recognition of the agency by Department staff and by the NACIQI, and (3) the date of the next scheduled review of the agency's compliance report or full petition for renewal of recognition. (Note: S=Spring NACIQI meeting; F=Fall NACIQI meeting; C= Compliance Report)

Unless otherwise noted in a Title IV note after the agency's name, accreditation by an agency listed below may be used by an institution accredited by the agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. Since December 1999, the Department has been routinely including distance education (defined at the time to include correspondence education) in its in-depth review of all agencies seeking initial or continued recognition. Consequently, all recognition decisions made after December 1, 1999 and prior to July 2010 include a determination as to whether an agency's scope of recognition includes the accreditation of distance education. Beginning in July 2010, at each review for renewal of recognition, an agency will be expected to demonstrate its evaluation of distance education and/or correspondence education in order to retain distance education and/or correspondence education in its scope of recognition.

### **Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges**

1967/2011/S2016

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of postsecondary, non-degree-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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Web address: [www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org)

### **Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training**

1978/2013/S2018

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 use accreditation by the agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

William V. Larkin, Executive Director  
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Tel. (202) 955-1113, Fax (202) 955-1118  
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Web address: [www.accet.org](http://www.accet.org)

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

1956/2013/S2016

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.

Anthony S. Bieda  
Executive in Charge  
750 First Street, NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4242  
Tel. (202) 336-6780, Fax (202) 842-2593  
E-mail address: [abieda@acics.org](mailto:abieda@acics.org)  
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### **Council on Occupational Education**

1969/2013/S2016

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.

Gary Puckett, Executive Director  
7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325  
Atlanta, Georgia 30350  
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### **Distance Education Accrediting Commission**

1959/2012/S2017

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer degree and/or non-degree programs primarily by the distance or correspondence education method up to and including the professional doctoral degree, including those institutions that are specifically certified by the agency as accredited for Title IV purposes.

**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 of its degree and/or non-degree programs to participate in Title IV programs.*

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### **Middle States Commission on Higher Education**

1952/2012/F2017

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 and correspondence education programs offered at those institutions.

Elizabeth H. Sibolski, President  
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Web address: [www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)

### **Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools**

2004/2014/S2017

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 U.S. Virgin Islands to include the accreditation of postsecondary, non-degree granting institutions 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**

1952/2015/F2017

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 bachelor's, master's, and/or doctoral degrees and associate degree-granting institutions in those states that include degrees in liberal arts or general studies among their offerings, including the accreditation of programs offered via distance education within these institutions..

Barbara E. Brittingham, President  
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Web address: <https://cihe.neasc.org>

## **New York State Board of Regents, and the Commissioner of Education**

1952/2012/F2017

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

MaryEllen Elia, Commissioner of Education  
State Education Department  
The University of the State of New York  
89 Washington Avenue  
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Tel. (518) 474-5844 Fax (518) 473-4909  
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Web address: [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov)

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

1952/2015/F2017

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, including the tribal institutions and the accreditation of programs offered via distance education and correspondence education within these institutions. This recognition extends to the Institutional Actions Council jointly with the Board of Trustees of the Commission for decisions on cases for continued accreditation or reaffirmation, and continued candidacy, and to the Appeals Body jointly with the Board of Trustees of the Commission for decisions related to initial candidacy or accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation.

Barbara Gellman-Danley, President  
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Web address: [www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org)

### **Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities**

1952/2015/S2016-C

Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidacy status”) of postsecondary degree-granting educational institutions in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, and the accreditation of programs offered via distance education within these institutions.

Sandra E. Elman, President  
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### **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges**

1952/2014/S2017

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate for Accreditation”) of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, including the accreditation of programs offered via distance and correspondence education within these institutions. This recognition extends to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees and the Appeals Committee of the College Delegate Assembly on cases of initial candidacy or initial accreditation and for continued accreditation or candidacy.

Belle S. Wheelan, President  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097  
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Web address: [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)

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

1991/2013/S2016

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

Timothy W. Eaton, President  
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Web address: [www.tracs.org](http://www.tracs.org)

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

1952/2015/S2017-C

Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of community and other colleges with a primarily pre-baccalaureate mission located 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, which offer certificates, associate degrees, and the first baccalaureate degree by means of a substantive change review offered by institutions that are already accredited by the agency, and such programs offered via distance education and correspondence education at these colleges. This recognition also extends to the Committee on Substantive Change of the Commission, for decisions on substantive changes, and the Appeals Panel.

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**Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Senior Colleges and University Commission**

1952/2012/F2017

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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