COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

SUMMARY OF RECOGNITION STATUS

ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
(ACICS)

In accordance with the 2006 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraph 40, this summary of recognition status describes the formal action taken by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors with regard to an accrediting organization seeking recognition by CHEA.

PROFILE OF ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION

Type of Accréditor: Institutional
Number of Institutions: 830

CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation:

Accreditation of private postsecondary institutions offering certificates or diplomas, and postsecondary institutions offering associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees in programs designed to educate students for professional, technical or occupational careers including those that offer those programs via distance education or internationally. (2006)

CHEA RECOGNITION INFORMATION

History: Recognized by CHEA in May 2001

Most Recent Recognition Action

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, September 24–25, 2012
Decision: Recognition for up to three years

The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (2006 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 5-8).

The Board of Directors recognized ACICS for three years and required that ACICS undergo a full recognition review by CHEA prior to the end of that period.

Prior Actions on ACICS’s Application for Recognition

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, September 19-20, 2011: The Board of Directors deferred recognition in order to obtain additional information that shows ACICS has and implements accreditation standards or policies that require institutions or programs routinely to provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement, as determined by the institution or program (Paragraph 12(B)(1), 2006 CHEA Policy and Procedures); ACICS’s capacity to review applied doctorate degrees and first professional degree programs within specialized areas that include education, pharmacy, social work, veterinary medicine, osteopathy and law as this relates to the organization’s responsiveness, flexibility and accountability when working with institutions, programs and the public through critical self-review (Paragraph 12(E)(1), 2006 CHEA Policy and Procedures); the adequacy of ACICS’s financial, staff and operational resources to perform accreditation functions that include the review of applied doctoral degree and first professional degree programs (Paragraph 12(F)(1), 2006 CHEA Policy and Procedures); ACICS has and implements accreditation standards or policies that require institutions to distinguish accurately between programs that have achieved accredited status and those that have not (Paragraph 12(B)(3), 2006 CHEA Policy and Procedures); and that ACICS is consistent in the terminology it uses to describe doctoral degrees.

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