

**DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT:**

Comparison of current procedures to a possible scenario after proposed legislative and policy changes.

	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Proposed Status (after legislation and policy change)</b>
<b>Authorization Process (new institution)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Authorization is granted. This allows an institution to begin the accreditation process.</li> <li>• Institution establishes a relationship with the accrediting agency.</li> <li>• Accrediting agency provides official notice to DHE that the school is making reasonable and timely progress towards accreditation or is eligible for accreditation.</li> <li>• DHE grants institution Category II approval that allows institution to operate and enroll students.</li> <li>• Institution continues the accreditation process.</li> <li>• Upon accreditation the institution is granted Category I or full authorization by the DHE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institution would apply for authorization. Part of the application would include the requirement to identify with what accrediting agency they would be working.</li> <li>• DHE would coordinate and fund an external evaluation of the institution to determine if the institution has the potential to become accredited.</li> <li>• Upon determining that the institution would be able to achieve accreditation, the institution would be authorized to operate and enroll students (equivalent to current Category II).</li> <li>• The institution would have to begin the accreditation process and continue to demonstrate that reasonable and timely progress towards accreditation occurs.</li> <li>• Upon accreditation, the institution would be granted Category I or full authorization.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorization Process (already accredited institutions)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institution demonstrates accreditation, supplies required information to DHE.</li> <li>• DHE grants institution Category IA authorization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institution demonstrates accreditation, supplies required information to DHE.</li> <li>• DHE grants institution Category IA authorization.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accrediting agency conducts site visit to the Colorado site.</li> <li>• Upon successful completion of a site visit by the accrediting agency, DHE grants institution Category I or full authorization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accrediting agency conducts site visit to the Colorado site.</li> <li>• Upon successful completion of a site visit by the accrediting agency, DHE grants institution Category I or full authorization.</li> </ul>
<b>Renewal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No renewal of authorization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each three to five years, the institution would be required to report any changes to board of directors, additional programs offered, updates to their accreditation status, and other pertinent information for renewal.</li> <li>• DHE would renew authorization of school for an additional three to five years.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Complaints</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHE receives a student complaint and acts as an informal mediator.</li> <li>• Institutions are generally willing to work with student, but are not required to do so.</li> <li>• Generally, if the complainant has particularly egregious case (as determined by staff review) staff will recommend that the complainant work with the AG office or the civil rights division.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHE will have the ability to investigate complaints.</li> <li>• If DHE staff finds that the complainant has suffered loss as a result of deceptive trade or sales practice (identified in new statutory language), it will make a recommendation to the Commission.</li> <li>• The Commission will have the ability to award reparations to the complainant.</li> </ul>
<b>Fees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No fees are collected for the administration of Article 2 of Title 23.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fee collected for the initial authorization of institution.</li> <li>• Fee collected for the renewal.</li> </ul>