

TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – YORKTOWN UNIVERSITY

PREPARED BY: HEATHER DELANGE

I. SUMMARY

The Commission has statutory responsibility for the administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act. Commission policies and procedures have been developed to include an application process for any degree granting institution wishing to begin operation in Colorado. Institutions meeting the applicable requirements will be granted authority to operate upon the Commission's approval.

Yorktown University is an institution that currently operates in Colorado with Category II authorization. Yorktown University has applied for Full Authorization through the Degree Authorization Act. As required by the Degree Authorization Act Policies, Yorktown University's Colorado location has been fully approved by the Distance Education and Training Council's Accrediting Commission. Documentation of the site visit and approval has been submitted. Department of Higher Education staff has reviewed the required documents and recommends the Commission approve Full Authorization.

II. BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, which authorizes certain types of institutions to offer degrees and/or degree credits. These are: (1) Colorado publicly-supported colleges and universities; (2) properly accredited private colleges and universities; (3) postsecondary seminaries and bible colleges; and (4) private occupational schools authorized by the Division of Private Occupational School. Persons or unauthorized organizations that violate the provisions of the statute are subject to legal penalties.

All private colleges and universities, out of state public colleges and universities, and seminaries or bible colleges are required to register with the Colorado Department of Higher Education and to meet criteria found in CCHE Policy Section I Part J, Degree Authorization Act, in order to be granted authorization to offer degrees in Colorado. Such authorization must be received by the institution prior to offering any program of instruction, academic credits, or degrees; opening a place of business; soliciting students or enrollees; or offering educational support services.

The Department administers the Degree Authorization Act by determining an institution's eligibility to operate pursuant to statute and CCHE policy.

To apply for Full Authorization, the institution must provide the Department of Higher Education proof of accreditation by a regional or national accrediting agency based on a site visit to the institution.

Commission action is required by policy in order for institutions to be authorized at any level.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Yorktown University is currently a Category II authorized institution in Colorado. On June 7th, 2008 the Distance Education and Training Council accredited the institution based on a visit to Yorktown University and fully approved the Colorado site. Yorktown University is requesting Full Authorization based on the successful site visit by the accrediting agency.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Full Authorization for Yorktown University.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and the above institution's application materials are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

VI. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-121 C.R.S.
23-2-101 C.R.S.