

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

STATE OF COLORADO

PROBATION ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF PROBATIONARY ACTION REGARDING THE OPERATIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF WESTWOOD COLLEGE IN COLORADO

WHEREAS, Westwood Colleges, including Westwood College – Denver North, Westwood College – Denver South and Westwood College Online (“Westwood Campuses”), is authorized to do business in the State of Colorado pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 23, Article 2;

AND WHEREAS, Westwood College – Denver North and Westwood College – Denver South are subject to the accrediting standards of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC”);

AND, WHEREAS, the State of Colorado recognizes the important role of accreditation agencies, such as the ACCSC, to promote educational quality via the enforcement of valid standards and practices recognized by the United States Department of Education;

AND WHEREAS, the state’s role in regulating private colleges and universities is to establish laws and rules to promote compliance with the provisions of Title 23, Article 2 and includes the following statutory authority:

23-3-103.3. Authorization to do business in Colorado

(b) The commission may revoke the private college’s or university’s authorization if it finds that the private college or university is no longer accredited. The commission may place the private college or university on probationary status if the commission finds the private college or university has been placed on probation or the equivalent by an accrediting agency.

AND, WHEREAS, the CCHS is in receipt of an Order for Probation dated September 1, 2010 and a “Continued Probation Order” dated December 9, 2010 from the ACCSC related to Westwood College - Denver North;

AND WHEREAS, because the State of Colorado authorizes Westwood College, rather than its individual campus locations, this Probation Order resulting from the accrediting agency action against Westwood College-Denver North is applicable to all Westwood Campuses in Colorado. No negative accrediting agency actions have been issued to either Westwood College-Denver South or to Westwood College Online.

AND WHEREAS, the CCHE notes that the ACCSC has directed Westwood College to address the following:

- a. Westwood College-Denver North must demonstrate rates of student achievement that comply with accreditation requirements and meet specified benchmarks with regard to student graduation and graduate employment.
- b. Westwood College-Denver North must provide documentation with regard to any pending or unresolved student complaints and the status of these as well as documentation to support that the school is adhering to its prescribed policies and procedures to address and resolve complaints. Additionally, Westwood College-Denver North must submit documentation to address any current or pending lawsuits or legal proceedings filed against Westwood, affiliated schools, or the parent company, Alta Colleges, Inc. and the impact, if any, affecting school policies, staff, curricula, reputation, and legal or financial status.
- c. Westwood College-Denver North must demonstrate that the school and its ACCSC-accredited affiliated institutions comply with accrediting standards in the areas of student recruitment.
- d. Westwood College-Denver North must demonstrate that the school and its ACCSC-accredited affiliated institutions comply with accrediting standards in the areas of advertising and promotion.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the CCHE:

1. Westwood College's authority to do business in the state of Colorado is hereby placed on PROBATION.
2. This Order applies to all Westwood Campuses.
3. The Westwood Campuses shall remain on probationary status with the state of Colorado until the following:
 - The CCHE approves a change in status based upon application by Westwood to change the authority status. Such application shall include:
 1. Proof that the accrediting body (ACCSC) has voted to dissolve the probationary status and return Westwood to full accreditation; or, that

Westwood has received full accreditation status from another entity as prescribed by statute;

2. Written detail regarding how Westwood has addressed the underlying concerns raised by the ACCSC as set forth in the Probation Order and the continued Probation Order; and,
3. Proof that during the pendency of this State Probation Order, Westwood provided notification to all enrolled and prospective students, of its accreditation status and state authority status.

ORDERED BY:

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER
EDUCATION



JAMES T. POLSFUT
Chairman of Colorado Commission on Higher
Education

Effective this 14th day of December, 2010.