

**TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – COLLEGE AMERICA:  
REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION**

**PREPARED BY: HEATHER DELANGE**

**I. SUMMARY**

This item recommends authorization for CollegeAmerica-Denver, CollegeAmerica-Fort Collins, and CollegeAmerica-Colorado Springs to offer its baccalaureate programs under the Degree Authorization Act.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act, which sets out the terms under which certain types of institutions<sup>1</sup> may offer degrees or degree credits. Persons or 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, seminaries and bible colleges are required to register with the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) and to meet criteria in CCHE Policy Section I Part J, Degree Authorization Act, in order to be granted authorization to offer degrees within 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 Commission administers the Degree Authorization Act by determining an institution's eligibility to operate pursuant to statute and CCHE policy. Policy requires Commission action for institutions to be authorized at any level.

**II. STAFF ANALYSIS**

CollegeAmerica's three campuses (Denver, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs) and related academic programs are currently authorized under the Division of Private Occupational Schools (DPOS) and accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). DPOS approval does not extend to baccalaureate degrees. therefore the institution is seeking joint authorization from the CCHE.

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<sup>1</sup> (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 Schools.

As required by the Degree Authorization Act, CollegeAmerica submitted the initial application concerning its organization, programs and finances. Department staff empanelled an evaluation team to review the application. Staff provided the team with statutory references, DAA rules and regulations, the CollegeAmerica application materials and supporting documents and charged the team with assessing if the institution has the ability to provide appropriate student services at the Colorado sites and has the financial ability to support all operations at those sites.

The evaluation team noted minor concerns. CollegeAmerica responded to these concerns with additional documentation that was determined to be sufficient by the evaluation team. After reviewing the response by representatives at the institution, the evaluation team provided a favorable recommendation for authorization. Upon state authorization, CollegeAmerica plans to continue offering the following degree programs (tables taken from the ACCSC website, 23 Aug 2011):

**CollegeAmerica - Denver**

1385 South Colorado Blvd  
 Denver, CO 80222  
 School Number:1507  
 Last Accreditation:1-Nov-07  
 Next Accreditation:1-Nov-12

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 Fax: (303) 692-9156  
 E-mail: [nathan.larson@collegeamerica.edu](mailto:nathan.larson@collegeamerica.edu)  
 Web: [www.collegeamerica.edu](http://www.collegeamerica.edu)

Program	Clock-Hour	Credit-Hour	Award	Program Code	Category Description
Graphic Arts	1160	99.5	AAS	410	Art - Commercial and Industrial
Computer Science	1960	180	BS	1505	Information Technology
Nursing	1750	115	AD	1720	Nursing and Health Aid
Business Administration	1920	182	BS	1000	Business and Business Related
Medical Specialties	1310	102	AOS	199	Allied Health
Computer Technology and Networking	1080	99	AAS	1515	Information Technology
Accounting	2000	181	BS	1005	Business and Business Related
Nursing Administration - Baccalaureate Completion	905	90.5	BS		
Healthcare Administration	2040	181.5	BS	120	Allied Health
Computer Programming	1160	104.5	AAS	1500	Information Technology
Business Management & Accounting	1040	97	AAS	1005	Business and Business Related

**4. CollegeAmerica - Fort Collins**

4601 S. Mason Street  
 Fort Collins, CO 80525  
 School Number:70544  
 Last Accreditation:1-Aug-08  
 Next Accreditation:1-Aug-13

Contact: Joel Scimeca  
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 Web: [www.collegeamerica.edu](http://www.collegeamerica.edu)

Program	Clock-Hour	Credit-Hour	Award	Program Code	Category Description
Accounting	2000	181	BS	1005	Business and Business Related
Healthcare Administration	2040	181.5	BS	120	Allied Health
Nursing Administration - Baccalaureate Completion	905	90.5	BS		
Business Administration	1920	182	BS	1000	Business and Business Related
Business Management & Accounting	1040	97	AAS	1020	Business and Business Related
Graphic Arts	1160	99.5	AAS	410	Art - Commercial and Industrial
Medical Specialties	1310	102	AOS	199	Allied Health
Computer Technology and Networking	1080	99	AAS	1500	Information Technology
Computer Programming	1160	104.5	AAS	1515	Information Technology
Computer Science	1960	180	BS	1505	Information Technology

**6. CollegeAmerica-Colorado Springs**

3645 Citadel Drive South  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
 School Number:70623  
 Last Accreditation:1-Oct-07  
 Next Accreditation:1-Oct-11

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 Web: [www.collegeamerica.edu](http://www.collegeamerica.edu)

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**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve authorization for CollegeAmerica-Denver, CollegeAmerica-Fort Collins, and CollegeAmerica-Colorado Springs to offer Baccalaureate Degree programs.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-2-103.3