

**TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – UPDATE ON ACTION
TAKEN BY THE PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
REGARDING COLLEGE AMERICA – FORT COLLINS CAMPUS**

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I. SUMMARY

This information item is to inform the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) of action taken by the Private Occupational School Board against an institution authorized under the Degree Authorization Act.

II. BACKGROUND

At the September 8, 2011 CCHE meeting, staff made a recommendation for an amendment to CCHE policy, Section I, part J of the Degree Authorization Act. The amendment allowed an institution, authorized under the Division of Private Occupational Schools (DPOS), to seek authorization from the Commission to offer degrees at the baccalaureate level and higher, thus resulting in dual authorization from the two boards.

At the October 6, 2011 CCHE meeting, staff recommended probationary authorization of CollegeAmerica's three campuses: CollegeAmerica-Colorado Springs, CollegeAmerica-Denver, and CollegeAmerica-Fort Collins. All campuses hold dual authorization from DPOS and CCHE.

The Private Occupational Schools Board took action against CollegeAmerica-Fort Collins at its June 26, 2012 meeting. The following is a summary of the action taken:

The Division received and investigated three separate complaints concerning misrepresentation, deceptive sales or trade practices specific to the Medical Specialties AOS program offered through CollegeAmerica. The Board issued three separate written Notices of Noncompliance ("Notice") to the School and requested responses to each. The Division and Board were able to reach a stipulation in one matter. However, at its June 26, 2012 public meeting, the Board voted unanimously to direct its legal counsel to file a Notice of Charges and proceed with an administrative hearing seeking revocation of the School's certificate of approval to operate in the state of Colorado, and all other appropriate relief under law on the matters of non-compliance arising from the remaining two administrative complaints.

C.R.S. 23-2-103.4 (2) (a) (II) authorizes the Commission to revoke or place on probation an institution that violates laws or rules adopted or implemented by other state-level boards or agencies that have jurisdiction over the institution. CollegeAmerica-Fort Collins currently holds probationary status as a newly authorized private college or university.

At this time, the Division of Private Occupational Schools is awaiting a hearing date from the Office of Administrative Courts. DPOS staff approximate that the matter will be settled by the end of the 2012 calendar year.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This item is for information purposes only; staff makes no recommendation.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23.2.103.4