

**TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: REVISIONS TO CCHE
POLICY: SECTION I, PART J**

PREPARED BY: HEATHER DELANGE, ACADEMIC POLICY OFFICER

I. SUMMARY

This action item recommends approval of revisions of some portions of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) policy, Section I, Part J, the Degree Authorization Act: Policy Pertaining to Authorization to Operate as a Postsecondary Institution of Higher Education in Colorado.

II. BACKGROUND

At its November 1, 2012 meeting, the Commission approved the Degree Authorization Act policy (I, J) based on revisions to the state's Degree Authorization Act, §23-2-101, et seq., C.R.S. Since then, staff recognized areas within the policy that require additional language for clarity or additional guidance for private, degree-granting institutions to follow.

III. SUMMARY

Addendum A provides the working document with track changes so that the changes proposed are easily distinguished from the current language. The two following changes are proposed:

1. On pg. 2-3 of Addendum A, under section 3.04.01 Authorization Types, the definition of "probationary authorization" has been revised to clarify that institutions may be put on probationary authorization if their accrediting agency or body loses its U.S. Department of Education recognition, or the institution is otherwise found to be out of compliance with the policy.
2. On pg. 7 of Addendum A, the definition of "Seminary or religious training institution" has been revised to clarify that this type of institution is prohibited from offering or awarding degrees in any content areas that have a secular curriculum, or are associated with specific professional fields or endeavors not clearly and directly related to theology or theological occupations. Seminaries and religious training institutions may only offer baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degrees or diplomas, the content of which are limited to the principles of the church or denomination with which it is affiliated and that contain on their face, in the written description of the title of the degree or diploma being conferred, a

reference to the theological or religious aspect of the degree's subject area.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve and adopt the revised Degree Authorization Act policy as CCHE Section I, Part J.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-2-101, et seq.