**TOPIC:** DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: RECOMMENDATION OF THE RENEWAL OF AUTHORIZATION AS A PLACE OF BUSINESS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GLOBAL CAMPUS

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1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends the renewal of authorization as a Place of Business (with no instruction) for the University of Arizona Global Campus (formerly known as Ashford University) under the Degree Authorization Act.

1. **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 (DAA). The Act sets out the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

Pursuant to statute and policy, all authorized institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization the institution holds from the CCHE. A private college or university that has authorization as a Place of Business by the CCHE shall annually renew its authorization.

The Place of Business (with no instruction) authorization is defined as an accredited institution having a place of business within Colorado but cannot offer instruction in the state. These institutions are subject to the deceptive trade practice provisions in §23-2-104, C.R.S.

Ashford University established a call center in Denver, CO in 2011 to house staff for admissions, financial aid and student advising efforts for the University which at that time operated a campus in Iowa and had its headquarters in San Diego, CA. In 2019, Bridgepoint Education and former owner of Ashford University, changed its name to Zovio and relocated its headquarters to Chandler, AZ and continued its operations in San Diego, CA, Clinton, IA and Denver, CO. Additionally, Zovio began the application process to convert Ashford University from a for-profit institution to a not-for-profit institution.

In 2020, Ashford University acquired by the University of Arizona and as an online institution, became what is now known as University of Arizona Global Campus. The institution still operates out of San Diego, California, continues to hold institutional accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Senior College and University Commission and continues to maintain its various programmatic accreditation. The Denver, CO location is now comprised of Zovio employees, and that entity will continue to offer third-party Online Program Management (OPM) services to the University of Arizona Global Campus and its students as it has been doing for the past 10 years.

Under the University of Arizona Global Campus shared services agreement, staff in the enrollment and student advising departments support UAGC’s prospective and current online students.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

The instruction by University of Arizona Global Campus is provided entirely via distance education and asynchronously offering a multitude of Bachelor and Master level degree programs. The Statement of Accreditation lists one main campus in San Diego, California.

An administrative office in Denver houses staff who serve in student support roles for the UAGC. Under this shared services agreement, staff in Enrollment and Student Services support UAGC’s prospective and current online students from the Denver site. The onsite employees support UAGC by providing services such as student inquiry and enrollment services, student support services (e.g. student advising and academic advising) financial services, human resources, business technology, and learning and development (e.g. instructional design).

The University of Arizona Global Campus continues to meet the requirements of the Place of Business (with no instruction) authorization.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends the Commission approve the renewal of authorization for the University of Arizona Global Campus as a Place of Business (with no instruction).**

1. **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S §23-2-103.3(5) A private college or university that has authorization from the commission pursuant to this section and maintains its accreditation shall apply to the department for reauthorization in accordance with the schedule for reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer. A seminary or religious training institution shall apply for reauthorization every three years. A private college or university or seminary or religious training institution that seeks reauthorization shall submit an application in accordance with the procedures and policies adopted by the commission and shall pay the reauthorization fee established by the commission pursuant to [section 23-2-104.5](http://web.lexisnexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=0440209b70196c0a450023ec95de11c7&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5bC.R.S.%2023-2-103.3%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=3&_butInline=1&_butinfo=COCODE%2023-2-104.5&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=1&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLzVzB-zSkAb&_md5=fccf21cdb05ad81de4864a4d217ac5a1).