

**TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
OF THE HUMANITIES, ARGOSY UNIVERSITY, NEW
AMERICAN COLLEGE, and WILLIAM H. TAFT UNIVERSITY.**

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I. SUMMARY

The Commission has statutory responsibility for the administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act. Commission policies and procedures have been developed to include an application process for any degree granting institutions wishing to begin operation in Colorado. Institutions meeting the applicable requirements will be granted authority to operate upon the Commission's approval.

American University of the Humanities (AUH) is an existing institution whose international sites are accredited by the American Academy for Liberal Education; a U.S. Department of Education approved accrediting association. AUH has applied for Preliminary Authorization through the Degree Authorization Act. Department of Higher Education staff has reviewed the required documents and recommends the Commission approve Preliminary Authorization for AUH.

Argosy University is an existing institution that is currently authorized to operate by the Division of Private Occupational Schools. Argosy University has expanded their offerings in Colorado to Bachelors and Masters degrees and is now required to be authorized under the Degree Authorization Act. Argosy University has applied for Category I authorization through the Degree Authorization Act. Department of Higher Education staff has reviewed the required documents and recommends the Commission approve Category I authorization for Argosy University.

New American College (NAC) is a new institution applying for Preliminary Authorization through the Degree Authorization Act. Department of Higher Education staff has reviewed the required documents and recommends the Commission approve Preliminary Authorization.

William H. Taft University (WHTU) is an existing institution operating in Colorado with Category I-A authorization. WHTU has applied for Category I authorization through the Degree Authorization Act. As required by the Degree Authorization Act Policies, WHTU's Colorado location has been fully approved by the Distance Education and Training Council's Accrediting Commission. Documentation of the site visit and approval has been submitted. Department of Higher Education staff has reviewed the required documents and recommends the Commission approve Category I authorization.

II. BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, which authorizes certain types of institutions to offer degrees and/or degree credits. These are: (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 School. Persons or unauthorized 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, and seminaries or bible colleges are required to register with the Colorado Department of Higher Education and to meet criteria found 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.

To apply for Preliminary Authorization, an institution must provide the Department of Higher Education initial documentation concerning the organizational aspects of the institution as well as programmatic and fiscal details.

To apply for Category II authorization, an organization must provide to the Department of Higher Education documentation demonstrating that the organization has established a relationship with an approved accrediting agency and is eligible to begin the accreditation process.

To apply for Category I authorization, the institution must provide the Department of Higher Education proof of accreditation by a regional or national accrediting agency based on a site visit to the institution.

Commission action is required by policy in order for institutions to be authorized at any level.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The American University of the Humanities (AUH) is currently operating several campuses in overseas locations. The AUH main coordinating office is currently in Delaware. AUH is planning on opening a campus in the United State to better achieve their mission of humanitarian based liberal education. Currently AUH has a relationship with the American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE) a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency. Several of the overseas campuses are accredited by the AALE. AUH has submitted required documentation and meets the standards for Preliminary Authorization. Upon approval, AUH will

be required to demonstrate ability to serve students at an appropriate venue in Colorado prior to applying for Category II authorization and enrolling students in Colorado.

Argosy University is a fully accredited post secondary institution operating in Colorado under the authority of the Division of Private Occupational Schools. Argosy University offerings will now include several bachelors and graduate degrees. Due to a shift in enrollment and the offering of graduate degrees, Argosy University is required to abide by the policies of the Degree Authorization Act. Argosy University has submitted all required documentation for Category I approval.

New American College is a new post-secondary institution that is applying for Preliminary Authorization to offer associates, bachelors, and masters degrees in business administration. New American College has submitted all the required documentation for Preliminary Authorization. Upon receiving Preliminary Authorization, New America College will begin the accreditation process and is required to establish a relationship with a national or regional accreditation organization.

William H. Taft University (WHTU) is currently a Category I-A authorized institution in Colorado. On September 14, 2006 the Distance Education and Training conducted a visit to WHTU and fully approved the Colorado site. WHTU is requesting Category I authorization based on the successful site visit by the accrediting agency.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve Preliminary Authorization for the American University of the Humanities; and approve Category I Authorization for Argosy University; and approve Preliminary Authorization for New America College; and approve Category I Authorization for William H. Taft University.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and the above institutions application materials are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-121 C.R.S.
23-2-101 C.R.S.